

FACTSHEET FIVE

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FACTSHEET FIVE is published four times a year, appearing in the mails during the first week of February, May, August and November. Subscriptions are available at \$2.00 (cash, check, MO) or \$1.76 (mint US postage stamps) per issue, up to 4 issues in advance. These copies are sent Bulk Mail within the US, First Class to Canada and Mexico, and Surface Mail overseas.

First class subscriptions within the US are available at \$2.75 per issue, while Overseas Airmail may be had for \$5.00 per issue.

Deadlines for FACTSHEET FIVE are the 20th of January, April, July and October.

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available at the following rates:

	Unreduced	To be reduced	Price
Full Page	4 1/2" x 8"	7" x 12 1/2"	\$25
Half Page	4 1/2" x 4"	7" x 6 1/4"	\$15
Quarter Page	2 1/4" x 4"	3 1/2" x 6 1/4"	\$10
Business Card	2 1/4" x 2"	3 1/2" x 3"	\$ 5

The first column shows width by height for ads to be run exactly as is, the second column shows width by height for ads to be reduced to 64% along with the rest of the publication. Exchange ads may be arranged with other publications.

FACTSHEET FIVE

Yes, it's another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, resident at 41 Lawrence St., Medford, MA 02155; phone (617)-391-3496. This is Pretzel Press publication #661, and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 700 copies. 16th issue.

Now, pay attention, because I'm going to explain the mailing code. That's the stuff on the far right hand side of the first line of your address label. If it's time to review, I should have rubber-stamped a warning next to the label, but take a moment and check, just in case.

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "16", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "16" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell ten copies or so and want to split the proceeds.

"P" means you're a prisoner. FACTSHEET FIVE is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else.

"M" means you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future. I usually allow 1 issue for a single, 2 for a tape, or 3 for an LP, but I screw up a lot, so let me know if you're owed more.

"T" means we're trading zines, all-for-all -- that means if you publish a monthly I expect 3 for each FF I send you, and so on. "T?" means that I'd really like you to consider trading with me.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/17") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF.

And remember, FF is sent BULK MAIL. Not only does this make it slow (though, I hope, not TOO slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So PLEASE get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues.

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again. Alas, I've had to raise the price again: it's been almost a year since the last price rise, a year in which FF has continued to grow. I'll try to hold it at this level for at least another year. Anyhow, the new rates are \$2.00 (cash, check, money order) or \$1.76 (stamps -- that's 8 First Class stamps) per issue for a regular sub. Those in the US can subscribe for \$2.75 an issue and get FF delivered First Class instead of Bulk Mail. Those in Europe can get Airmail delivery for \$5 per issue. Any of these rates are good for up to 4 issues in advance, protecting you from price rises for a full year. Send money for more than 4 issues and I'll take it as a welcome donation. (Be sure to specify if you're sending money for a 1st class subscription!)

By the way, thanks to Doc Hinton, Mark Laskowski, Bob Morris, John Bridgman and Alison Myers for donations this time.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do NOT accept used postage stamps in payment!

A single sample copy of FF, the first time you write, is still \$1. After that, it's the regular rates. If you want a sample sent to a friend, send me \$1 and their address.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering dangerous drugs, canned goods, or negotiable securities.

Thanks to Bob Black and especially John Bridgman for sending me new stuff to review.

What won't work is sending too little money, non-credible threats, or just begging. Sorry, that's the breaks.

See you all again in February. Enjoy whatever holidays you can get away with.



CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- * AMERICAN RATIONALIST is at 2001 St. Clair Ave., St. Louis, MO 63144 no matter what I said the zip was before.
- * ANTI-SOCIAL COMICS is now at 333 S. East Ave. #209, Oak Park, IL 60302-3542
- * ASATRU FREE ASSEMBLY (publishers of THE RUNESTONE) now at PO Box 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024-1754
- * BREAKFAST WITHOUT MEAT are at 1827 Haight St. #188, San Francisco, CA 94117
- * THE CONNECTION has moved to 4271 Duke St. #D-10, Alexandria, VA 22304
- * END TIMES new address is 1310 College Ave. #1234, Boulder, CO 80302-7302
- * HIGH FRONTIERS has new offices at 1201 Masonic Ave. #A, Berkeley, CA 94706-2329
- * PIGTOWN PUGNACIOUS has moved with no forwarding address
- * U2 USA has moved to 2907 D Violet Dr., Charlotte, NC28205-6813

OTHER NEWS:

* The FREE PHILOSOPHER QUARTERLY has ceased publication. I'm sorry to see it go. John Quel is entertaining offers to buy the publication, but in the small press world, that seems highly unlikely.

* THE EARTH ALLIANCE has ceased publication. Too bad.

* THE LEADING EDGE has ceased publication.

* AGAINST THE WALL has ceased publication, after many fine years. Another casualty of the shrinking libertarian magazine market.

* THE LIBERTARIAN DIGEST (Fred Foldvary, 1920 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94709) is for sale. Editor Fred Foldvary says "inquire for terms".

* If anyone knows where to find a rock magazine called ONETWOTHREEFOUR, drop a line to Avrech, 8863 Saturn St., Los Angeles, CA 90035

* XEROX SUTRA EDITIONS announces the publication of a book by the KANSAS COLLEGE OF COLLAGE's founder, Joe Schwind. Called THE SECRET ALBUM OF AMERICA, it's 52 pages of collected collages, and costs \$3.50 postpaid. Copies may be ordered from 1341 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703.

* Changes of address are costing me quite a bit of money. When you move without telling me, the Post Office takes your copy of FACTSHEET FIVE, rips off the cover, throws the rest away, and returns the cover to me, along with your new address. They also charge me 30 cents each time this happens. The way I figure it, that was your copy that got thrown away, not mine, and I'm not going to extend your subscription because you forgot to tell me you moved. FACTSHEET FIVE is bulk rate and it isn't forwarded, not even if you guarantee postage for 2nd and 3rd class materials. So c'mon people, drop me a line when you mosey on down the road. I'd like to stay in touch.

* Pfanazines tend to be priced for local distribution rather than mail order. On pfanazines with a price under a buck, you should probably also send along a stamp or two.

* I've been reviewing all sorts of stuff, and not reviewing other stuff, and want some feedback on whether I'm making the right choices or not. Let me know what you feel about four types of zine: 1) Nazi, KKK, Tony Alamo and other "hate literature": currently not being reviewed; 2) Small-scale fundamentalist Christian literature: currently being reviewed; 3) Large-circulation, slick pubs (eg. THE PLAIN TRUTH, WHOLE LIFE TIMES, DAILY WORLD): currently not being reviewed; and 4) Pedophilia: currently being reviewed.

* Wm. Lamb Corp. (10615 Chandler Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601) is a major mail-order supplier of photovoltaic equipment. Recently one of their mailings mentioned that the Federal tax credit for installing solar power is scheduled to run out at the end of this year, and it's not likely to be renewed, so if you've been thinking about installing PV, now is the time to do it!

* I'd appreciate it if you mentioned FACTSHEET FIVE when writing for copies of any fanzines I review here. It can only help you by increasing my credibility with publishers and getting me more stuff to review. Also, if you have any problems with publishers please let me know. Usually it's just a case of something going astray in the mails that can be easily straightened out, but I'd like to help out when I can.

* On a related topic, Ron Heresy, the editor of HERETIC'S JOURNAL BULLETIN, reports that he lost some mail, including requests for sample copies. So if you wrote to him and didn't get an answer, please try again.

* Dagny Sharon (Dagny Enterprises, PO Box 224, Long Beach, CA 90801) is going to be sponsoring the next FREELAND CONFERENCE (April 1986 in Southern California), a popular libertarian gathering originated by the Rampart Institute. She's looking for entrepreneurs to share the risk by co-sponsoring a particular concession or event for a \$100 investment, getting a share of profits in return.

* SEDITIOUS DELICIOUS (PO Box 6981, New York, NY 10150) is looking for anti-authoritarian poems of all types.

* THE AGORIST INSTITUTE (PO Box K, Norwalk, CA 90650) is looking for tax-deductible contributions of office equipment and supplies to help out with their left-libertarian outreach efforts.

Back issues of FACTSHEET FIVE are available as follows:

#1, 2, 3, 4	\$1 each
#6, 9, 12, 14	\$2 each
#5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15	\$3 each
Complete set	\$25 (going up to \$30 next time)

The first four issues are ditto-printed and much smaller than those to follow. The remaining issues are either the original printing (\$2 issues) or xerox copies (\$3 issue), which look the same but cost me substantially more to make.

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GLOSSARY

Anarchist: One who believes that we would all be better off without government. Most anarchists know what the ideal true anarchist society would look like. They all disagree about it.

APA: Amateur Press Association. A magazine jointly written by the subscribers. Generally each subscriber (or "member") is responsible for printing his own pages and mailing them to a central point, from whence he gets back copies of everyone's pages. Something like a cocktail party in print.

Church of the SubGenius: A manic faith based on the teachings of the late J.R. "Bob" Dobbs, super-salesman, and dedicated to helping people reclaim the Slack that has been stolen from them. More details for \$1 from PO Box 140306, Dallas, TX 75214.

Constitutionalist: People generally of a conservative bent who feel the government in this country is trampling wholesale over individual rights by ignoring the letter of the Constitution. Major areas of concern often include the IRS, the Federal Reserve banks, the lack of a gold standard, and novel strategies for legal defense.

Detournement: the use of images from the mass media to make a revolutionary point. Started by the Situationists.

Discordian: A believer in the idea that God is a crazy woman. As evidence the Discordian points to all the chaos in the world. May be a religion disguised as a joke or vice versa. See Shea & Wilson's ILLUMINATUS! trilogy. Also called Erisians.

FACTSHEET FIVE: Title of a story by John Brunner with certain overtones in this zine.

Fan: Normally short for "science fiction fan". Fans are people who like to hang around with people who like to hang around with people...who read SF. Many are active in publishing something. Many remain aloof from the rest of the small press world.

Fanzine: Anything published on a non-commercial scale. Sometimes abbreviated to Zine.

Fen: The plural of Fan.

Loc: Letter Of Comment on a fanzine.

Mail-Art Network (MAN): Similar to an apa but usually involving more graphics, less words, and a variety of media. Mail art comes in everything from music to slides. Distribution is normally limited to other mail artists, but part of the mail art philosophy is that everyone is an artist.

Minicomic: Like a comic book but smaller and usually printed in black and white rather than color. typical size is about 3" by 4".

Neopagan: Member of any number of loosely related religions that are involved in nature- or Goddess-worship, or in the resurrection of the old Gods. Bonded together by a search for alternatives to established, heirarchal religions. Often polytheistic or pantheistic. Sometimes called just Pagans.

Networking: What you're doing when you read FACTSHEET FIVE and then write to someone listed herein. Trendy synonym for "communication".

OE: Official Editor. The person who puts together an apa and keeps track of its finances. Sometimes called a CM (Central Mailer).

Pfanzine: A fanzine dealing with music of any type, derived from the words "punk fanzine". The silent "p" serves to distinguish them from sfanzines. The fastest-growing part of zinedom.

Posterist: A producer of single-page posters, usually illustrating some obscure political or social point or designed to confuse the normal people. Various posterists use MANs, telephone poles, or direct mailing to distribute their work. Propaganda by the masses.

RPG: Role-Playing Game. Dungeons & Dragons is the best-known example.

SASE: Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. Should be legal size with 22 cents postage unless specified otherwise.

Sfanzine: A fanzine dealing with science fiction, or at least put out by a fan. The silent "s" is to distinguish them from pfanzines. Traditionally more important than eating or sleeping to the "fanzine fans".

Situationism: Theory of the now-defunct Situationist International, the avant-garde turned mean. The Sits lambasted the "society of the spectacle", indicting the system and its spurious oppositions for organizing experiences and fragmenting reality. Economically they were for workers councils, politically they rejected everyone else, especially radicals, as betrayers of the liberatory ideals. And they used too many big words.

The Usual: Traditional method of obtaining sfanzines without sullyng oneself with cash. Generally includes trading, writing locs, contributing articles or art, or being recipient of a whim.

Vonu: From Voluntary and Not Vulnerable. A method of obtaining individual liberty by escaping from society into the wilderness and only coming back for cheeseburgers and other necessary supplies. More preached than practiced.

PUBLISHER'S SHOWCASE

THE BLOT #1 (75 cents from 15 Keswick St. #4, Boston, MA 02215): "Ink for the People" is the subtitle here, a new magazine put out by a bunch of folks ranging from moderate democrats all the way out to nihilists. Digest-sized, THE BLOT has something of the feel of a literary magazine, with short and heartfelt pleas against the forces of society that are breaking down people. There are some very perceptive people here, like Red Balloon who tries to analyze the consumption game that keeps him smoking. Like Tom Schutz who wants to make nuclear war a personal problem for presidents and premiers. Like Hank Bromley, who shares his correspondence with a global death corporation. From the Chaotic cover to Ray Barnes' "I Love Reagan" comics, this is a very impressive first issue. I sure hope they stay in business.

CEREBRAL DISCOURSE #2 (4 stamps from PO Box 95455, Seattle, WA 98145-2455): A quite amazine MAN, consisting of nicely-copied collages and posters that are for the most part a full page each. The whole thing has an anti-societal, anti-horros-of-technology feel to it, perhaps because of the numerous detourned technic images. A great variety of artists are represented here, mosstly with far-out names: Just Termites, Pink Spiders, Art Maggots and Trapped Gas among them. The front cover, featuring a dilapidated park bench, a dissolving face, and lots of fog, could be interpreted as a statement about nuclear war, toxic waste, junk food or dangerous drugs, depending on the viewer. This thread of multiple interpretations runs through the whole zine, amking it an ideal spur to thought. These are the sorts of posters that ought to be put up in city centers everywhere.

HOLIER THAN THOU 22 (\$2 from Marty and Robbie Cantor, 11563 Archwood St., North Hollywood, CA 91606-1703): One of the most impressive of modern-day sfanzines is HTT, a nominee for the Hugo award (though not yet a winner). This issue is smaller than most -- which means that Marty and Robbie held it down to about 80 pages. As always, close to half of that total is devoted to letters on past issues, and once again the letters selected are fun and opinionated. The articles represent the Cantors' specific interests, mainly fanhistory and putridity. The former is amply represented by Harry Warner's reminiscences, Terry Carr's ENTROPY REPRINTS, and Milt Stevens' recollection of the Great LASFS Shootout. The latter gets the continuation of Richard Weinstock's Law & Order Handbook and Adrienne Fein's cooking hints. Overall, HTT is quite a brick, and pleasant to read. Why not start your sfanzine acquaintance with the Very Best?

JET LAG #58 (\$1 from 8419 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63147): This St. Louis monthly is coming out like clockwork now and it just keeps getting better. The greatest thing about JL is that they aren't narrow-minded about music: they review whoever makes it to the middle of the country, whether they be Wendy O Williams, Mitch Ryder, Public Image, Black Flag, or Husker Du. This particular issue there's a huge article on a "thrash marathon" (Offenders/Die Kruezen/Murphy's Law/White Suburban Youth/Blind Idiot God/Isolated Youth) directly after short bits on Sting, Waylon Jennings, the Kinks, and Donovan. You get the picture. JL also runs articles not tied to particular groups at all: one on a controversial public sculpture that may be demolished soon, one on the best type of stereo (technically supreme or cheap and loud?) to buy, and a look at the Man Behind Babopob Dooley. Getting JET LAG in your mailbox every month is like Christmas: you never know what's going to be inside the wrappings.

NO PLACE TO HIDE #4 (75 cents from 249 Hillcrest Ave., Trenton, NJ 08618): OK, what other pfanzine can you think of that has said nasty things about Henry Rollins spoken word stuff? There's a great selection of interviews here too: Tales of Terror, Pleased Youth, Richard Hell, Husker Du, Suicidal Tendencies. As you might notice, the whole thing is pretty hardcore oriented, though the record reviews are a bit more far-ranging. A pile of live show reviews round out the zine, but even without them, it would be worth getting solely for the interviews. Check out Suicidal Tendencies trying to explain about their allegedly-gang member followers.

OVERTHROW Summer '85 (\$1 from PO Box 392, Canal St. Station, New York, NY 10013): This is the tabloid of the Yippies, still going strong after all these years. When it first came out, this was highly topical, leading off with an extensive story on the MOVE massacre in Philadelphia (including a sidebar on the bombing of the ghetto in Tulsa many years earlier). Still worth reading in retrospect -- why has everyone forgotten the killing of children so soon? The Yippies are big into activism these days, with articles on the dangers of smoking tobacco, the hazards of mining radioactive materials, and the police use of stun guns. OVERTHROW will keep you in touch with their various activities: smoke-ins, Rock Against Reagan, the organizing sessions for the North American Green Party, and more.

POPULAR REALITY #9 (25 cents from PO Box 3042, Ann Arbor, MI 48106): In a very short time, this "vital organ of the ShiMo underground" has gone from being a ho-hum tabloid to being a central nexus of a vast conspiracy of radical lunatics. Blaster Al Ackerman has become a regular contributor, discoursing this time on the Fool in the Esoteric Tarot, a somewhat wilder figure than one genreally finds in "normal" tarot decks and who might, indeed, symbolize this particular magazine. Also featured in this issue are the plans to shut down the Rock Island Arsenal (again), a heavy-duty letters section (including some people who think this zine is shit, always a good sign) and an inserted interview with the editor, David Crowbar Nestle, hisself. PopReal will stretch your tolerance to the breaking point, and then laugh at the little pieces.

SIPAPU #31 (\$4 from Noel Peattie, Route 1, Box 216, Winters, CA 95694): This is another magazine of reviews of the small press. Peattie concentrates on somewhat more polished zines than I do, and our sources are wildly divergent, so there's little overlap in our reviews. This issue is excellent all around: an interview with the publisher of YELLOW SILK (A Journal of "erotic arts"); a few pages on the flap over David McCalden and the California Library Association; and an outsider's view of the "new underground" fanzine scene are the high points. I think the pfanzines could use more contact with librarians and vice versa; SIPAPU is one point where this contact is being made.

SPASTIC CULTURE #2 (\$1 from 2000 Center St. #1243, Berkeley, CA 94704): More strange mags emanate from the mail drop at 2000 Center than any other address in the country. SC is one of the latest and best additions to their ranks. Any tag I could put on this zine would be too limiting -- some of the subject matter could fit in a pfanzine, some in a MAN, the layout seems to be rather SubGenial. Let's just look at a few sample pages. How about an interview with blues musician Washboard Bill, complete with the address to send birthday cards to? A leering Mickey Mouse in an aerial dogfight? Review of an art gallery? A punk comic epic called "Mario Speedwagon Marches on the Hall of Bacon"? Put it this way, there are enough original items and reprinted news stories in these 40 pages to puzzle and delight you for a long, long time. Look, you buy the darned thing and tell me how to review it, OK?

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES Vol. 11 #1 (\$10/year from Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneva 16, Switzerland): An international, privately-funded effort to encourage and investigate ways to make peace a worldwide norm. Each issue contains very well-written scholarly articles, concentratig on actual alternatives and useful policy suggestions as well as on peace research. For example, this issue discusses Max Weber's theories as well as presenting a list of alternative disarmament proposals that have been offered. A good issue to start with; it also contains a ten-year cumulative index.

A TRUE ACCOUNT OF DIVERSE TRAVELS IN LITTLE KNOWN LANDS (TRADE ONLY from 534 Revere St., Revere, MA 02151): This one you'll have to work to get, as the explorer-author Dr. Ahmed Fishmonger specifies "No amount of money no matte rhow large will be accepted in exchange...only another book or original artwork or some object that will blow my mind." This ACCOUNT consists of collages nearly filling each page, captioned with single sentences from the explorer's journals of interplanetary (possibly interuniversal) travels. The artwork has a 50's feel to it -- strange bits of tecnology, travelog photos, and who knows what else. 25 pages in all, from a secret SubGenius.

ZINES

AANN BULLETIN #19 (\$2 from PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, Ont., M4Y 2N9, CANADA): Super giant 46-page edition of reprints from the anti-authoritarian press worldwide, which makes sense because AANN is the Anti-Authoritarian News Network. My favorites: British riot info from COUNTER INFORMATION, cheery news of nazis and prison officials from NORTHWEST PASSAGE and animal liberation stuff from all over, giving a balanced view of this controversial movement. An excellent resource.

ABORTED IMAGES #10 (\$2 from Joanna Rogers, 420 London St., Peterborough, ONT K9H 3A3 CANADA): A mail-art network from the frozen North, this one consists mainly of collages though there are also a few original drawings. Joanna herself concentrates on sabotaging the media image of the perfectly beautiful woman, and other contributors seem to be espousing causes through their art, though sometimes the cause is pretty obscure. Contributors are invited to send Jo originals suitable for xeroxing and inclusion in upcoming issues.

A.C. GAZETTE #5 (75 cents & 39 cents postage from Katherine, 135 W. Clark #203, Champaign, IL 61820): That's a new address and a modified title for what was formerly the AUHTISTIC CHAINSAW GAZETTE. A wide-ranging zine of thought and writing. Some of the features include a bit of art criticism (expressionism vs. conceptualism), a Henry Rollins interview (collect them all!), some erotic fiction that won't be what you think, p[oetry, handwritten music reviews and a bunch of zine reviews. This reminds me vaguely of CLOSEST PENGUINS in its intellectual freedom, but is definitely on a more highbrow (or more pretentious) level. Desperately looking for thoughts from anyone who will write as well.

THE AGORIST INSTITUTE REPORT TO SUPPORTERS #0 (SASE from PO Box K, Norwalk, CA 90650): The Agorist Institute is the latest plot of the Southern California anarcho-libertarians to change society. AI is intended to be a research and education academic institute, supporting the free market and the entrepreneurs who it is composed of. Those entrepreneurs are the prime audience: AI offers to teach them how to do their work better and how to make conditions better for it. For the moment, AI is one small office, a few publications and a lot of vision, looking for more supporters.

AID & ABET NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #6 (\$1 cash/MO from PO Box 8787, Phoenix, AZ 85066): This is a Constitutionalist publication aimed at one particular group: lawmen and military officers, all those involved with law enforcement in the country. Editor Gerald McLamb is trying to convince policemen that their duty is to the Constitution, rather than to blindly follow their superiors' orders.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION Vol. 7 #1 (\$2 from EV Consultants, Inc., 327 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025): A small zine dedicated to keeping track of the non-gasoline powered vehicle industry, primarily electric cars. There are lots of these things being manufactured all over the world, even if Detroit isn't selling any. AET is a complete guide to books, papers, news stories, conferences and developments in the field, and required reading for anyone who is thinking of buying a non-traditional car.

ALTERNATIVE PRESS Vol. 1 #5 (2 stamps from PO Box 1141, Aurora, OH 44202): The "Press" here is interpreted pretty widely, covering zines, comic books, music, live shows...This is another of those free-around-town tabloids that are the backbone of the music gossip lines these days. Why, there's even art and book reviews in here. However, the backbone of this zine is still the music, runnignt he gamut from Aerosmith to Red Hot Chili Peppers to The Minutemen to Al Yankovic. If you live near Aurora, they're looking for more writers. If you live elsewhere, I'm sure they're looking for more readers as well.

THE AMERICAN Aug. 1985 (\$1.75 cash from Constitutional Rights Foundation, PO Box 920952, Suite 274, Houston, TX 77292-0952): Another tabloid dedicated mainly to fighting the country's enemies as personified by the IRS. For a \$100 membership fee you can get help from the CRF in answering those nasty letters from the IRS. Otherwise, you can just read the articles on Paperwork Reduction and the Founding Fathers' attitude towards gun control.

THE AMERICAN Sept. 1985: Thoughts on getting out of W-4 withholding, a mention of a book that proves Social Security is unconstitutional lead off this issue. Dean Allen also has some interesting words on common law, Fifth Amendment tax returns, and other stratagems beloved of various patriot groups. He seems to have a more level-headed approach to the subject than most.

AMERICAN FORUM #18 (\$13.95/year from PO Box 261, Dept. E, Staten Island, NY 10302): A somewhat conservative zine featuring what appears to be a random selection of news and clippings from all over: other zines, supermarket tabloids, reputable papers. Lots of stuff in this issue directed against big government and the IRS, a historical rundown on women in sports, and some contacts for bizarre groups like THE STEPFORD SOCIETY, who run a summer school for wives.

Subscriptions to AF also include the weekly TLC INTERNATIONAL UPDATER, now billing itself as "The Newsletter of Sex and Violence", with Swinger contacts, rape stories, and other such stuff.

THE AMERICAN PATRIOT Vol. 38 #2 (\$1 from PO Drawer A, Scottsdale, AZ 85252): Another tabloid that aims to stop the Communists from infiltrating and taking over America while true patriots have been hamstrung by the Supreme Court and the Federal Reserve System. Concentrates on alternative analysis of the news. I was particularly amused by their report on the Live Aid Concert: "Leftist Media and Rock Stars Raise Over \$70 Million for the Red Government of Ethiopia!"

THE AMERICAN PATRIOT Vol. 38 #3: A big spread on the persecution of Rev. Sun Myung Moon by the government and an expose of the NEA titled "How a Soviet Trojan Horse, Placed in our Public Schools, Increased Illiteracy in America" stand out in this issue.

AMOEBA MAN #1 ("Anything over \$1" plus 53 cents postage from Davis White, 11860 Critton Ct., Woodbridge, VA 22192): This b&w underground comic bills itself as "Microscopic Humor for Adults". Amoeba Man and his cohorts are a bunch of amorphous punk rockers, talking in strange and gnarly tongues, writing on the walls, cursing and otherwise having a good time. There are some powerful drawings interspersed with the AM comics, resembling some of Ralph Steadman's stuff in the Hunter Thompson articles. Needs some plot development, but the art is interesting.

ANTHEM June 1985 (50 cents & SASE from PO Box 158324, Nashville, TN 37215): Another free-around-town pfanine, but this one isn't a newsprint tabloid. This issue leads off with a review of the best album you DIDN'T hear last year, Threk Michaels THE FALLEN ONE. Inside we find some local Nashville music news (with of course JASON AND THE SCORCHERS prominently featured), reviews of records, rock videos, movies and more and a blast at heavy metal. The music is mostly mainstream (Springsteen & Jagger), but a few small-label items creep in at the edges.

ANTIMEDIA #5 (86 cents from Zeno, 824 Haggett, McCarthy GR-10, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195): An anti-authoritarian, anti-profit, anti-Union Carbide zine. Most of this issue is devoted to arguments for vegetarianism and suggestions on how to give up eating meat. Unfortunately, these arguments serve as an excellent example of just about every type of logical fallacy in existence -- anyone stupid enough to be converted by them already has tofu between his ears.

APAEROS 1 (Sample Free from Sylvia c/o Correspan, PO Box 759, Veneta, OR 97487 -- state you are over 18): A new apa along the lines of THE CONNECTION (reduced print, subscription includes contribution privileges) "for sharing our knowledge, insights, questions, problems, stories, fantasies and feelings about sex and erotica; what turns us on and off and why; relating to partners..." and associated topics. This first issue contains much that is bluntly honest, behind a screen of anonymity for most (but not all) writers. In this issue: a few bits of written erotica (both serialized); some book reviews; fantasies; medical advice and more.

ARCHE-TYPE MORALITY #11 (75 cents from Annie Butler, 1494 W. 103rd Pl., Denver, CO 80221): What immediately stands out about this pfnzine is the page size: they're all irregularly cut and barely held together by a couple of staples. The layout is chaotic as well, but incredibly dense, with lots of tiny print to cram everything in. Flipper, Zany Guys, Mighty Sphincter interviews; animal rights stuff; rants about being asexual; live show reviews and lots more all shoved in here somehow. By someone who clearly cares about music and energy.

ARTITUDE #7 (50 cents from Carl Howard, 209-25 18th Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): A musical tabloid that concentrates on the very margin of the medium, mainly as represented by independent cassette tapes. The articles and reviews tend to be long and talky, with thoughts on music that can't be co-opted and commercialized playing a fairly prominent part. There are also shorter cassette reviews, mostly of things I've never even heard of. they say they're for the audiophile rather than the fan, and I believe them.

ARTITUDE #8: The lead article is on Vagina Dentata Organ, a group who has produced music described as "nerve-wracking". Inside is an interview with David Tibet of the group Current, who happens to be a somewhat Crowleyan mystic. Also of note is an appreciation of American composer Wallingford Riegger, who I predict you will not find discussed in any other pfnzine.

ARTPOLICE #39 (3131 1st Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408): An apparently priceless Mail-Art magazine; my gut feeling is that it goes for about a buck a copy. Maybe art-by-mail would be a better term since most of the pix in this one are line drawings rather than the collage more usual in MA pubs. The apocalyptic centerfold, featuring such diverse items as scorpions, the Tree of Life and the HOLLYWOOD sign in a marvelously detailed drawing is reminiscent of some of my more disturbing drug experiences. Other drawings explore the darker side of sexuality, angst and hamburgers.

ARTPOLICE #40: Basically more of the same. One of the artists asks, in fine print, "Are those people stupid? Or am I just another selfish asshole?" Make of it what you will.

AUDIO ALCHEMY DIGEST #2 (\$3 from PO Box 2391, Olympia, WA 98507): The price includes a cassette that wasn't in my trade copy. The written part of this is a lead-in to a future project, Cassette Mythos, apparently to be a full-scale book about the cassette tape artists out there. The written stuff here is mainly a list of contact addresses for people doing odd things with tape recorders, as well as some thoughts from the culprits themselves. Readers are invited to participate in the Ten Questions cassette survey.

BAD MEAT Fall '85 (Free from Mark Tyler, 412 Fleetwood, Bartleswood, OK 74006): The bulk of this pfnzine is taken up with an interview with Number Six, a band that intends to be together for a year and then blow it off to graduate. Most of the layout comes from various mainstream sources, like newspapers and the PLAIN TRUTH, and tends to show punkers in a not- too-flattering light. Also record, zine and show reviews.

BANG! #9 (\$1.25 from Rocco Cipollone, 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): Well put-together pfnzine with a big staff of writers and spiffy photographs. They tend to concentrate on sort of well-known alternative bands (for example, in this issue, Los Lobos, Naked Raygun, Dead Kennedys and Birdsongs of the Mesozoic) but also slip in a few sleepers now and then (The Beat Farmers and the Feelies). Plenty of record reviews and a Boston music scene gossip column round out this fine publication.

BAYOU LA ROSE #19 (\$5/year from PO Box 6130, Kansas City, KS 66106): Published by the Survival Network Information Center, BLR tries to champion the earth and the people against society and civilization. As such, they devote space to the plights of Leonard Peltier and the Big Mountain Indians, and many others being repressed from Britain to Japan. Best line of the issue: "Remember, there is no safe level of Asbestos, Government, or Capitalism!"

BEANO #12 (\$1 from 230 Oak St. #35, San Francisco, CA 94102): "A Journal of Atomic Voodoo", this is a music zine but I'd hesitate to call it a pfnzine. What pfnzine, after all, would feature articles on bluesmen Joe Turner and Charlie Brown and C&W king Merle Haggard alongside of more familiar names such as the Del Fuegos and True Believers? Check out the fascinating article on the Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations Millenium General Assembly, an obscure but delightful subject.

BEFF Vol. V #15 (\$12/year from 659 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117): If you lived in SF you could pick this up for free, but by mail it's worth the price. Broadly speaking this is a review of the arts -- including such little-mentioned arts as neon sign design and arcology-building (this issue includes an interview with Paolo Soleri). A newsprint tabloid with plenty of photos and drawings, this issue also features reviews of cutting-edge video art, sculpture, rock and fanzines, along with a few bits of interest on Native American religion.

BETWEEN THE LINES 2 (Free from Erik Kosberg, 3013 Holmes Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55408): A collection of nonsense and non-sequitirs from all over. This issue includes a Kerry Thornley rant on mind poisoning at a distance, an artist's personal attack on corporate art, the Pope on dope, a 1925 surrealist letter, and lots more. I think this may be part of a sinister plot to undermine the youth of America.

BIBLE-SCIENCE NEWSLETTER Vol. 23 #9 (\$11/year from 2911 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55406): Their masthead says they're dedicated to (among other things) "Special Creation, A Young Earth and A Universal Noachian Flood". They claim to be interpreting science in the light of the Bible, trying to hang on to as much as possible of both. My own feeling is more that they're twisting the sceince by ad hoc assumptions to save the literal interpretation of the Bible.

BIG YEAH 3 (50 cents from Mike Greenlees, 1019 W. Hillcrest #1, Dekalb, IL 60115): Mike and co-editor Michelle Thoma have a nifty little product in this new pfanzine. A couple of interviews with bands that somehow wandered into Dekalb (perhaps while looking for some other city) notably the hilarious Dead Milkmen. Lots of record reviews concentrating on the really beyond the pale stuff (About Scraping Foetus From the Wheel they say "Noise! Noise! Glorious NOISE!") and also video reviews, which you would expect to find in many pfanzines but in fact are carried by almost none.

BLITZ #55 (\$1.50 from PO Box 48124, Los Angeles, CA 90048-0124): This is the special Tenth Anniversary issue of "The Rock and Roll Magazine for Thinking People" and it's definitely worth getting hold of. Of particular interest are reprinted pieces from long-gone issues, including interviews with Mitch Ryder and Question Mark and the Mysterians and a synopsis of the best overlooked garage band records. Not mired in any particular age or style, BLITZ covers more rock than you would think possible -- from Herman's Hermits to The Pandoras (both sets) to Black Flag.

BLOW IT OFF #6 (75 cents from Gravelvoice Records, PO Box 2271, Bloomington, IN 47402): A pfanzine calling itself "The Fanzine from the cornbelt!!" although I think there are others. Nicely typeset (a relief after too many handwritten sheets!), editor Scott Colburn concentrates on loud punk bands and not this wimpy new wave stuff. Or at least that's what the record reviews say to me. Also interview with Bonemen of Barumba and some midnite movie reviews.

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Sept. 1985 (Donation from Loyola IHR, Box 12 Loyola University, New Orleans, LA 70118-6195): The IHR in this case is the Institute of Human Relations, apparently a university research organization. This entire issue is devoted to an article by Rev. George F. Lundy, SJ, called "Death as Punishment". He reviews the current state of death penalty law, and argues against it on both on absolute grounds and as it is administered today.



THE BOB #24 (\$1 from PO Box 897, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023): Wide-ranging tabloid pfanzine. This issue has an article on Ed Sanders and the Fugs, an interview with Husker Du, a centerfold on Robyn Hitchcock and plenty of other performer news. The interviews and articles concentrate on the people behind the music, giving the musicians a chance to talk about the interactions between life and music. Also features a passle of record reviews (including a section on new bands to watch) and a few fanzine reviews.

Here's another pile of somewhat-informative ads from JC Brainbeau:

QUESTION:

You ask the reader to send a SASE to war-ending (men, women) losers, winners (chance-selected) war-waging strategy or simply WINNERS. What's war-ending about that?

ANSWER:

Maybe Billy Graham's right — there will be wars and rumors of wars. I usually add 90% to the war-ending because the main reason for 90% of the wars is the suicidal wars of the past — no winners. If we were to fight Russia and our fallen men and women triggered chance-selected winners the front-line Russian soldiers might question their nation's socialism as we did ours. To end socialism and wars (90%) send S.A.S.E. to:

WINNERS — Box 2243
YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504

QUESTION:

"NO MAN IS BORN RICH ENOUGH TO BUY BACK HIS PAST". —

Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854 - 1900). If we live again it follows that each person's past began unraveling at the proper speed a million years ago more or less in a spiritual sense as opposed to a one time few decades or less in a secular sense. One thing that could prevent it would be a world-wide nuclear holocaust if we don't end war, inflation, unemployment and secularism. Rich or poor — send S.A.S.E. to:

4 WRONGS RIGHTED
Box 2243
YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504

QUESTION:

Are you suggesting that this 50 year old white millionaire broker should engage in blue collar work for a full year while some 21 year old black youth is getting a full year's pay for doing nothing?

ANSWER:

Be careful of those racist remarks. You might be sentenced to wear a blue collar EVERY year for the next ten instead of just every other. Send SASE to world-wide crime and unemployment ending, year 'round paying even age work force, Box 2243

YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504

BREAKFAST WITHOUT MEAT #8 (\$1.25 from 1827 Haight, Room 188, San Francisco, CA 94117): The title is a bit of a fib, as this pfanzine contains a long interview with the Meat Puppets -- the expletives are deleted, but the list is supplied for those who want to put them back in. Got it? Also Husker Du interview, humor for non-linear thinkers, and disgusting recipes.

BULLETIN OF THE CRC #276 (\$5 for introductory package from PO Box 986, Fort Collins, CO 80522): CRC is the "Committee to Restore the Constitution". They seem to be primarily upset with the Federal Reserve and the large banks, who together are destroying the country. Their plan is for individual states to issue interest-free currency until the Federal government resumes its Constitutional duties to provide a legal tender.

BVI-CENTRAL Vol. 3 #4 (\$1.25 from PO Box 44025, Omaha, NE 68144-1025): BVI is the franchised fanzine that's striking out in totally new directions and confusing a lot of reviewers. More or less humor, this one is starting to rely less on made-up news parodies and more on original comics and collages.

BVI-CENTRAL Vol. 3 #5: Most of this issue is taken up by a vague and pointless comic book called "Super Simon", rife with adolescent humor, or at least adolescence. The BVI Dating Service ad is mildly funny.

BVI-LINCOLN #1 (25 cents & a stamp from Lisa Rant, PO Box 81275, Lincoln, NE 68501-1275): A postcard-sized (but multiple-page) member of the BVI Network, this one intends to concentrate on the art and poetry side of things. This first issue includes a bit of collage art and some thoughts on zine networks in general. By the way, for \$4 per year you can get on the mailing list for all the BVI magazines, however many of them there are by now.

BVI-LINCOLN #2: Single-sheet 8 1/2 by 11 this time, with a little poetry, a little art, a little humor and what might be either blank verse or random thoughts.

BVI-PACIFICA Vol. 1 #1 (\$4/year from Dragwyla, PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): The SubGenius infiltrator of the BVI Group. Lots more pages than most of the other BVI pubs, featuring collage, SubGenial ads, astrology and Tarot, posters snarfed from telephone poles, and more. This is also a forum for ads for Yael Dragwyla's otehr magickal services, some of which you might find interesting and useful -- see the book review section for some more of her stuff.

BVI-SOUTH Premiere Issue (50 cents or so from PO Box 305, Bridgeport, AL 35740-0305): Contains a reader survey with a bunch of nosy questions for you to fill out, and some of the BVI-trademark fake news stories. The hilarious one here is about Bob Guccione publishing nudie shots of Mother Theresa, but the one about the Easter Seals telethon isn't far behind if you've got a sick sense of humor. And for only \$10, you too can become a BVI franchisee: write for more details.

BVI-WEST (50 cents, maybe, from PO Box 154, Denver, CO 80201): Another single-sheet member of the BVI Empire, but this particular sheet is oversized and packed with nasty satire of the world we unfortunately live in. I snickered over the Speedslim Diet ad, laughed at the Greyhound guided tour, and chortled at the Nuclear Accident report. Not much substance here, but there's not much substance to grape jelly on Wonder Bread and that's pretty damned good too.

CAREFULLY SEDATED #4 (\$2 from 117 Wanless Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4N 1W1, CANADA): This seems to be sort of an interim issue of this sfanzine, dedicated more to keeping it in the public eye and cleaning out the slush pile than making any forward progress. Perhaps the high point is John Berry rambling on in typical fannish fashion about a recent holiday. The lettercol has an argument going on about the worth of fandom that threatens to escalate to bodily injury -- in other words, it's the best part of this zine.

CASTLEROCK Vol. 1 #6 (\$1 from PO Box 8131, Bangor, ME 04401): "The Stephen King Newsletter", this is somewhat more professional than, say, most music fan club papers. This one contains the tail end of a serial written by King, news on forthcoming King novels, part of a detailed bibliography of King's works, and a couple of scholarly articles on themes in his fiction.

CATAZINE #1 (\$1 from Rock Market, 8033 Sunset Blvd. #565, Los Angeles, CA 90046): "The mail order record store of the independent scene" is more than just another catalog, a whole lot more (although they do have 4 pages in the center devoted to selling you stuff at decent prices). There's also a couple of new comics, a crossword puzzle, and in-depth interviews. This one has an astoundingly long interview with Black Flag, and toerhs with Harvey Kubernik and Chuck Dukowski, giving sort of an overview of the "spoken word" recording scene. Definitely recommended.

CHRISTIAN ANTI-COMMUNIST CRUSADE Vol. 25 #16 (Sample Free from PO Box 890, Long Beach, CA 90801-0890): Other than the fact that they work through church leaders there doesn't seem to be much overt Christianity in this newsletter, but the Anti-Communism is omnipresent. Full of scare stories on what the Commies will do after they take over to reorganize American life. These guys are, to be fair, either dedicated or crazy: they've taken their show on the road to Peru, to preach against the Shining Path guerillas, and somehow survived to tell the tale.

CIRCLE A IN ATLANTA #13 (Contribution from PO Box 57114, Atlanta, GA 30343-1114): A voice of revolution from the Atlanta underground. This issue leads off with some excellent thoughts on encouraging the revolutionary potential of the punk counterculture. Lately the analyses in CAIA have been getting more incisive: this issue discusses Live Aid and the potential for fighting tyranny here and now. Usually it's also a good source of news on the local Atlanta scene, but they seem to have pushed that back this time.

THE CITIZEN'S CLAW Sept. 1985 (\$1.00 (cash/postal MO ONLY) from S.A. Freeman, PO Box 441, Morongo Valley, CA 92256): The Citizens for Constitutional Law are a Constitutionalist group who are trying to start over by founding New Nation USA in accordance with the US Constitution, and calling for people to forswear their allegiance to the current outlaw government. In this issue the folks of NNUSA explain that the other freedom groups are complimenting their work rather than duplicating or fighting against it. A refreshing attitude after too much of the leftist sectarian press.



CLAUSTROPHOBIA #103 (\$1.50 from 5047 SW 26th Dr., Portland, OR 97201): "Life-Expansion News", this is for the person who wants to be poised on the brink of the coming explosion in space travel and life extension. This issue leads off with a couple of articles bemoaning and attacking the government and military monopolization of space and then prints part of a talk speculating on the possibilities for more frequent "peak experiences" through intelligence increase. Of particular interest are the abstracts of various papers dealing with life-extension research.

THE CLOSEST PENGUINS #8 (\$1 from 625A Natoma, San Francisco, CA 94103): Slice of life fiction and vignettes. Perhaps this self-referential quote will give you the idea: "The stories don't stop it's just a matter of where you put the frame." Real thoughts from real people instead of literature dressed up to seem larger than life. Also a few reviews of books and other publications. One of the contributors this time has a piece, Why I write, that starts "To investigate - to destroy - to disturb - to clarify - to enliven."

RYOSUKE COHEN (I-6 Hiyoshicho, Moriguchi-City, Osaka 570, JAPAN): One of the more prolific foreign mail artists, at least as far as work in US shows goes. His latest project appears to be a collection of personal seals and stamps from as many mail artists as possible, with the ultimate goal being a single sheet bearing seals and stamps from all over. the interim version is quite colorful and pointless.

COMMON CAUSE Sept. 1985 (SASE from Todd Castor, 1501 Billings St., Oxnard, CA 93033): A timely pfnzine that concentrates on getting the news out about the Ventura County music scene rather than on mindblowing graphics or massive five-pound issues. Mainly local live reviews, with some emphasis on the local "Nardcore" sub-genre. Now carrying record reviews as well.

COMMON CAUSE Oct. 1985 (Now 60 cents): Yes, it costs more, but it's a lot bigger now. In fact it looks a lot like FF did way back when: 12 pages and digest-sized. In this issue they're starting a Nardcore Discography, which ought to be useful to anyone interested in hardcore. They also review some records from outside the area and interview the lead singer for MARGINAL MAN. Who knows what this zine could turn into?

THE CONNECTION #129 (\$10/8 issues from Erwin S. Strauss, 4271 Duke St. #D-10, Alexandria, VA 22304): This is an apa for libertarians, philosophers, and other thick-skinned individuals. There are a lot of bizarre ideas floating around TC at the moment, along with a lot of heated criticisms. One good thing about TC is that it encourages subscriptions, so you can get an idea of what an apa is like before participating -- but be warned that it is not quite a typical apa.

THE CONNECTION #130: This issue features the return of OE Filthy Pierre with something like 30 pages of comments and a couple of excellent articles from Mike Hoy (owner of Loompanics) poking fun at the libertarian movement.

CONVERGENT REALITIES #3 (\$2 from Diane Thome, PO Box 1708, New Milford, CT 06776): This has the aura of a sfanzine, but also publishes stuff of interest to the members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a group looked down upon by many SFans. Advice on what gear to take to SCA events, hilarious attempted description of osteomancy, and what appears to be the start of an interesting lettercol are the highlights of this issue. An introduction to zinedom for the SCAers, and an introduction to the SCA for whatever open-minded SFans may still be left out there.

DADATA (SASE to PO Box 33, Stillwater, PA 17878): This mail artist puts out xeroxed collage at irregular intervals. The latest package features a couple of pages directed against big government, a sardonic commentary on psychology, and what might be a tirade against anti-humanistic technology. Then again it might just be a baby attached to a Bunsen burner. Mail art doesn't come with a scorecard.

DE PROFUNDIS 162 (\$5/year from LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601): The newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, one of the best-established Sfan groups in the country. Calendar of LASFS and other sfnal events, along with news about members of the Society and their doings. DP is also willing to distribute flyers for other fan groups: 300 copies and \$15 postage per sheet.

DE PROFUNDIS 163 features editor Joe Celko bitching about lack of support from the club for the newsletter -- are we in for another editor soon?

DE PROFUNDIS 164 does indeed appear to have a new editor, though who it is I can't quite tell -- this may be a cooperative effort. Anyhow, it suddenly has a lot more in the calendar section, and also the minutes of the LASFS meetings. Looks like a good zine if the initial "up" can be continued.

DELTA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL (PO Box 128, McLeansville, NC 27301): Another fine example of modern snake-oil advertising. Write and ask for their introductory brochure. They'll send you two, one explaining what a nifty investment system they have, complete with predictions, and one (written a year later) explaining how their predictions were right, just backwards. Funny as hell. I'm not about to pay \$3500 for their investment service, or \$35,000 to learn what the secret behind it is.

DER MODERNE TIMES #10 ("Free" from PO Box 13437, Denver, CO 80201): I think that's free when you can find it lying around in Denver -- this pfanzine looks like it's worth about a buck by mail. Heavy on interviews and coverage of local bands, but there are also in-depth articles on bands that have recently played Denver, including in this issue Einsturzende Neubaten and the Meat Puppets (that's two different groups for those of you not familiar with the scene). Also a good article on underground tape distributors. The layout is multi-color and great looking.

DIALOGUE #53 (\$7/year from Brad Ott, 916 Euterpe, New Orleans, LA 70130): This is "New Orleans Alternative Monthly Newsjournal", and they're filling their niche very well. They're a good source of general news on social choice issues: this copy, for example, covers the recent NOW convention and includes a statement from the Mobilization for Survival umbrella-group. Also of interest are the New Orleans calendar and the continuing comic "Archihorse", featuring suggestions for more civilized architecture.

DIALOGUE #54 features an extensive discussion of the mismanagement of flood control on the lower Mississippi and Archihorse discussing public spaces.

DIALOGUE #55: A couple of short thought pieces stood out this time. Brad Ott puts forth his thoughts on the reality of voting and calls for the progressives to stop playing government's game. Sharla Mansfield discusses the practical details of changing one's identity. I wish DIALOGUE could afford to print longer articles, as both of these would have been improved by extension.

THE DILLINGER RELIC 42 (\$1 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701): This is a completely self-indulgent diary of Arthur's days and doings, made readable by his sarcastic comments on everything in the world except football. Well, that's not completely fair, as he's sometimes sarcastic about the football too, and has moments of downright sobriety when discussing authors he likes. The SF fen will understand that this is a very good personalzine, the rest of you will have to try one and figure out what discussions of New Coke, theophylline and NLP add up to.

DISCUSSION BULLETIN 13 (\$3/6 issues from PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501): A small apa for those interested in the Social Industrial Unionism of Daniel DeLeon. This is a variety of socialism starting with union control of the workplace and working up from there. Many of the writers have been involved in union and socialist movements for many years, and there is a sense of history about this publication. In fact the history occasionally overwhelms the current discussions, but on the whole things are interesting if not lively.

DREAMSHORE 22 (\$1 from 618 S. Mitchell, Bloomington, IN 47401; writers guidelines send SASE): Jan Byron and her motley crew steadfastly refuse to grow up all the way, and it's a good thing, otherwise we wouldn't have DREAMSHORE. This isn't a kids magazine, though there is plenty of stuff about and for children; it isn't neo-pagan, though reincarnation, ESP and witchcraft pass through it; it isn't technic apologia, though there is a regular column on the space shuttle. Rather it's a celebration of all that is fun and cheerful in the world, a group of friends writing and sharing their friendship with the rest of us. DREAMSHORE is for the child in all of us.

DREAMSHORE 23: Amusing "Historical, Ethnological and Theological" investigation of Casper, the Friendly Ghost and a critical review of Zenna Henderson's People stories are the high points of this issue for me, but rest assured the usual silliness and psychic wanderings are still present.

DSS NEWSLETTER #2 (SASE from Joseph Teller, 49 Derby St., Waltham, MA 02154): DSS stands for Dungeon Sharing Service. These guys are providing a service for the RPGing community, offering new scenarios, monsters, magic items and characters for a nominal copying cost. There are more than 1100 pages of gaming aids available, covering an even dozen gaming systems. I haven't seen any of their stuff, but at their prices there's little to lose.

DUPLEX PLANET #67 (\$6/6 issues from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): Dave composes this zine from snippets of interviews with people living in the Duplex Nursing home. This issue is a special compendium of the wit and wisdom of John Lowthers, who has recently passed away.

DUPLEX PLANET #68: Questions of the issue (each answered by a number of the Duplexers) include "Does everything belong to someone?", "What's the best place to get a tan?" and "What do you want to ask Dr. Al Ackerman?", which last must have been a real puzzler. Also a couple of poems from Ernest Noyes Brookings, soon to be featured on a major musical compilation.

EDEN PRESS CATALOG (PO Box 8410, Fountain Valley, CA 92728): Eden Press is a somewhat "underground" publisher who has been around for years now. Probably their best-known books are THE PAPER TRIP I & II, about how to build up documentation for a new identity. Other subjects they cover include revenge and harassment; beating speeding tickets; entrepreneurship (with lots of blueprints for making money available) and tax shelters.

EDITIONS CATALOG #711 (\$1 from Norman Levine's Editions, Boiceville, NY 12412): A monthly catalog listing thousands of used hardcovers for sale. My experience with Editions has been that they ship promptly, that the books are in excellent condition, and that the prices are reasonable. The major drawback is that the lists are so extensive that sorting through them for the stuff you want is a truly tedious task. Still, I do it every few months, and generally enjoy the results.

EKOMEDIA BULLETIN - TORONTO #8 (25 cents & SASE from PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2N9 CANADA): Ekomedia is an international coalition of anti-authoritarian journalists, and this is one of two Ekomedia groups on this continent (the other being in San Francisco). EB-T offers coverage divided roughly equally between bad things being done in the world and good actions being taken by anti-authoritarians. Enclose a bit of extra cash if you can and ask for a copy of their publication catalog.

ELITIST ENNUI #34 (SASE from Alex McKale, 812 Clark St. #2B, Evanston, IL 60201): This is an apazine without an apa. Alex writes wittily enough that there are readers outside of SWAPA who want to see his stuff, and he's happy to comply. Each issue of EE contains a couple of dozen short items, ranging over science fiction, current events, gay rights, humor, Chicago politics and other fantasy items. A pleasant way to wile away an evening. Alex is good company.

END TIMES #7 (99 cents from 1310 College Ave. #1234, Boulder, CO 80302): This pfanzine has moved west but it hasn't lost any of its punch. In fact getting involved with the Walls of Genius bunch may make them even punchier. Anyhow, with the exception of yet another snotty interview given by Henry Rollins, this is an exceptional zine. The Scratch Acid interview is very well done, the record and book reviews are succinct and get the point across. One of the best points of ET is that the staff is not afraid to let their opinions be known: lead editorials on realism vs. idealism, the lesson of the 80's, and the end of the sexual revolution in this issue. This stuff should appeal to more than just punkers.

ETCO MAIL ORDER BOOKSTORE (\$2 from EtcO, North County Shopping Center, Rte 9 N, Plattsburgh, NY 12901): ETCO sells books for the home electronic tinkerer. Sample titles: CABLE TV SCRAMBLING TECHNIQUES, THIRD BOOK OF ELECTRONIC PROJECTS, MASTER HANDBOOK OF TELEPHONES. The prices don't look much better than bookstore ones but the selection is the best I've seen anywhere. Caveat emptor: I haven't ordered anything from them. They also have another catalog listing surplus electronics, notably cable TV decoders.

THE EX-PRODIGY CLUB (SASE from Elissa, 307 Chestnut St., Pacific Grove, CA 93950): This poetry collection is a sideline of those wonderful folks at Hamsterama. A couple of these are pretty good: Peter Rashkin's pair of "Hitchhiking Poems", particularly the first haiku-like one; Carol Schneck's "Please Excuse Carol's Absence", a tale of partying gone awry; and Elissa Rashkin's "White Girl's Spiritual Conversion" stand out for me. A burst of creativity at a remarkably low cost.

FACE THE MUSIC Vol. 1 #5 (FREE from PO Box 163142, Sacramento, CA 95816): Huge fine-print mail-order catalog of records, tapes, videos, posters and music whatnot, both new and used. Prices from about 50 cents to 50 dollars. They also offer a free search service for hard-to-find collectors items. Many out of print and hard to find items -- I could spend \$300 here is only I could afford it. Tell 'em FF sent you.

THE FAMILIST Vol. 4 #4 (Free from 5324 Sun Valley Dr., El Paso, TX 79924): This is the newsletter of the Familist Movement, who basically want to abolish the state and put family structures in its place. "We are Children's Rights advocates who recognize Familism as a lifestyle, designed by Nature to foster the self sufficiency and independence of children." The bulk of the magazine is currently taken up by the fascinating Family Forum, in which editor Bob "Grandad" Krel answers readers' letters and puts forth his doctrine of Familism.

THE FAMILIST Vol. 4 #5: A must-read. This issue consists of two long and interesting articles: Norman Barry on "The Tradition of Spontaneous Order" (this is part 4 of a series, beginning here with Adam Smith) and Wendy McElroy on "Individualist Anarchism vs. "Libertarianism" and Anarchocommunism", a hardcore statement of her personal beliefs.

FAMOUS HARDCORE OF PUNKLAND #1 (\$1 from PO Box 26684, San Jose, CA 95159): A zine of fast, loud, nasty punk. Starts off with a look at the seminal Sex Pistols, goes into interviews with the Offenders, Scarred For Life and D.O.A. and ends up with an anti-nuke article and a whole shitload of reviews. Pretty awesome for a first issue. The printing could stand a lot of improvement, but you can ignore the crappy photos and concentrate on the opinionated writing.

FANTASY MONGERS #15 (\$1 from W. Paul Ganley, PO Box 149, Amherst Branch, Buffalo, NY 14226-0149): Almost all of this one consists of ads from various small publishing houses and smaller magazines, in the SF and fantasy genres. There are a couple of articles, but one gets the impression they are just filler, except for the editor's amusing little book reviews.

FERRET #7 (60 cents from David Roth, 2521 Irving S., Minneapolis, MN 55405): A minicomic dealing with the adventures of the title rodent. In this issue she goes after a bunch of deranged mice with the aid of automatic weapons, draws a cartoon of Dave Roth and ends up pregnant by a chinchilla. Bad news for people who learned about animals from Walt Disney films.

FIFTH ESTATE Vol. 20 #2 (50 cents from PO Box 02548, Detroit, MI 48202): This may well be the oldest and most successful counter-conspiracy in the world. FE is a tabloid which takes a generally anti-authoritarian stand on most issues, with particular emphasis on the failings of modern technology, and if this puts them at odds with the rest of the milieu, so be it. Central to this issue is an appreciation of sometime contributor Fredy Perlman, a central figure in American anti-authoritarian publishing. Check out also John Zerzan's investigations into the invention of numbers as a source of human repression.

FILK FIESTA #2 (\$16/12 issues from Paul Doerr, PO Box 1064, Suisun, CA 94585): A "filk" is a folk song of the SF fan community, often consisting of new words to an old tune. Filkers have an apa, organizations, and fanzines, of which this is one. In this issue, Paul discusses his future plans for FF, gives addresses for a bunch of other filkers, and a report on his activities at Westercon 34. Paul's also interested in producing a series of filk tapes -- drop him a line if this sounds interesting. And he wants info on 12-volt taping equipment, as he's on solar power.

FLIPSIDE 46 (\$1 from PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): Flipside isn't just a pfanzine, it's an institution. What we have here is 64 dense newsprint pages with plenty of photos of local and national bands to go along with the interviews and reviews. Also a goldmine of contacts: pfanzines, other punks, bands, promoters, record companies and more. The letter column is enough to prove to anyone that there are plenty of concerned and intelligent punks out there. FS is promising format changes for the future in order to become more focused on the cream of the crop. I hope it works out.

FOOD FOR BIRDS, PEOPLE FOR PROFIT #6 (\$1 from Mid-Coast Sub-Church of Paranoia, RFD 279, Rockland, ME 04841): This is sort of an apa put out at irregular intervals by a SubGenius Elder of the Northeast. This is the "Drugs, the Law & Violence" issue, and the contents mostly loosely relate to the topic. Dirt on the break-up of a food coop in town, a scholarly article indicting the UN Convention on Human Rights and several people's thoughts on drug laws set the tone for this discussion.

FOOL (\$2 and 4 stamps from Dr. Ahmed Fishmonger, 534 Revere St., Revere, MA 02151): From the producers of the legendary GET STUPID!, which some of you may remember, comes this fine SubGenial publication (indeed, in one place it claims to be the cleverly-disguised fourth issue of GET STUPID!). Revelation of a new elder Goddess of the SubGenii, Banono sets cheek by jowl with x-rays of a platypus and stuff that was meant for the late unlamented MADNESS! Also features collages from beyond the grave and a lab rat adverting some heathen cult or other.

FORUM #6 (25 cents from PO Box 82, Needham Heights, MA 02194): "A Socialist Discussion Newsletter" says the masthead. This issue is devoted to recounting the goings-on at the Emergency National Council Against U.S. Military Intervention in Central America/The Caribbean, apparently a sort of round-table discussion between various different socialist groups. The impression I get is that the factionalism in the socialist movement is as strong as ever, but at least some people are trying to work together, which is encouraging.

FOR YOUR SKULL #7 (25 cents & a stamp from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): Calling itself the "art/comic/etc zine" this one has the feel of a pfanzine but concentrates on more than just music. The comics seem to tend towards existential wonder, but maybe that's just me. Anyway, I liked it, and you shouldn't be too cheap to send for a copy.

FOR YOUR SKULL #9: This issue features beer reviews (but c'mon gals, Guinness Extra Stout is heavenly stuff if served at room temperature -- what's wrong with you?), baby mutilation comics and other visual gross-outs, and some intriguing near-Pointillist art.



THE FREEMAN October 1985 (FREE from FEE, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, 10533): FEE is the Foundation for Economic Education, a hard-core free marketers group. This monthly journal typically contains ten or twelve articles on free market philosophy and actions. Sample titles: "Free Enterprise: the Key to Prosperity" and "African Famine: The Harvest of Socialist Agriculture". FEE also hosts seminars and publishes books, all devoted to establishing a true free market.

THE 1985 FREE MARKET YELLOW PAGES (\$1(?) from PO Box 26044, Santa Ana, CA 92799): A contact directory based on the perhaps-dubious idea that libertarians are the best people to buy your vacuum cleaners, office equipment or biorhythm analysis from. Not surprisingly the listings are top-heavy in a few fields: publications, organizations and booksellers. The publisher is looking for someone to take over this project due to a loss of spare time: write them for more details.

FREENETWORK (PO Box 101, B1210 Brussels 21, BELGIUM): The brainchild of Andre Spies, the Freenetwork is meant to be a means for "creating a (non-territorial) worldwide community of freedom-promoters and problem-solvers". So far this seems to mean that everyone is telling Andre that they exist and using his mailings as a means to promote their own libertarian organizing activities. Possibly of interest to the hardcore libertarian, but so far seems to have little to offer beyond a few contacts with others.

FREE VERMONT Vol. IV #2 (\$5/year from LP of Vermont, PO Box 37, Burlington, VT 05402): The tabloid publication of the Vermont Libertarian Party. As such, it concentrates on the nuts and bolts of political activism for the third party, and relatively mild pro-liberty articles calculated to attract everyone and offend no one. Subscriptions are free on request for Vermont residents.

FUDGONG FUNNIES #3 (50 cents from J.P. Morgan, PO Box 78, Keansburg, NJ 07734): A minicomic-format zine featuring one-page panels drawn with a light, airy style that is a joy to behold after the usual smelly underground comics. My favorite this time is "Rambo: The Final Chapter" featuring the trained killer impaled on a forest of punji sticks, though "Dr. Von Bladder Likes to Read DURING Lunch" is pretty hilarious too.

FULL DISCLOSURE #5 (\$2 from PO Box 8275-FD5, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): A tabloid dedicated to publishing news of the US intelligence network, "regardless of any government intimidation and harassment". In this issue, that includes an article on the Surveillance Court (a rubber-stamp organization for the approval of requests to spy on US citizens), an article on the legal position of Mail Forwarding Services, a list of radio frequencies used by the USAF, and a reprint of the NSA internal newsletter, plus much, much more. Fascinating stuff which you ought to look into while the publishers are still out of jail.

FUNHOUSE (\$1 or 88 cents in stamps from Lang Thompson, 2111 University Blvd. E., Apt. 33, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404): This is a contact listing of around 125 people and organizations that Lang has had dealings with. Some you will recognize from FF, but many others you will not. In particular, he seems to be much more in touch with the independent cassette scene than we are. A definite value for all FF readers.

F.U.T.U.R.E. #11 (\$1.75 from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): That stands variously for "Facilities Utilizing Technologies Ultimately Recycling Energies" or "Forming Unity Toward Ultimate Regenerative Evolution". Either way, this is an eclectic publication covering a lot of New Age things from various points of view, generally united by the feeling that humanity and the earth can pull together and make the world a much better place to live. This issue seems to concentrate on changing the family and home life as a first step towards changing the world. Features a very extensive International Calendar of Events.

GOING UNDER #7 (\$1 (?) from 4746 Northgate, Ann Arbor, MI 48103): Good grief there are a lot of zines in Ann Arbor! Must be the climate. With the exception of an interview with local band THE BATS this one is relentlessly political, so I won't call it a pfanine, just note they are aware there are things other than politics out there. Hard-hitting indictment of the "Selective Slavery System", El Salvador solidarity stuff, a rag on organized religion and a snide welcome to the fall crop of students are just a few of the things in this zine.

GOLDMINE #136 (\$1.95 from 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): This is a professionally-assembled zine aimed at the record collector. In it one finds a few reviews and features (an extended interview with the founders of Cream, an article on the Exiles), but the bulk of the zine consists of ads from people wishing to buy or sell (mostly sell) records. Hundreds of folks are auctioning or selling everything from sealed Elvis albums to Power Station promos. Most, but by no means all, of these items seem to be from the 50s and 60s. GOLDMINE could cost the right person an incredible amount of money.

GONE! Aug. 1985 (SASE from Denver Tucson, 2491 Ellsworth St. #21, Berkeley, CA 94704): This is a travel magazine for the common man, put together from reader's submissions and sort of like visiting your friends to see their slides. Greece, Phoenix, Pennsylvania, Tokyo...If you've traveled someplace, why not write up a few paragraphs for Denver's next issue and send them in?

GREEN ACTION (Contribution from 234 W. University Dr., Tempe, AZ 85281): A tabloid from the "Environmental Communications Network". Their big thing right now appears to be opposition to the Palo Verde Nuclear Plant, which I gather is someplace in their neck of the woods. Big Mountain, the Sanctuary movement, the Walk for Hunger -- the usual leftish causes. If you're not familiar with them, this is as good a place to start as any, though they don't appear to be linked in with other zines very well yet.

GREENPEACE EXAMINER April/June 1985 (\$15/year from 1611 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009): News on Greenpeace doings accompanied by the inevitable pitch for money. Saving whales, plugging polluting drains, helping harp seals, taking a Marshall Islander out to lunch: it's all in a day's work for these guys. I was amused by the "Nature's Law" ad from the Concept-Therapy Institute: these are the same folks who have run Star Wars "The Force can be with YOU" ads in OMNI.

GREY ZONE #4 (\$5/6 issues from Back Room Anarchist Center, 3200 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407): Contradictory though it might sound to the uninitiated, the anarchist community in Minneapolis has gotten organized lately. this newsletter is one indication, but far more important is the opening of the Back Room Anarchist Center as a social club, library and focal point for activities in the Twin Cities. Very strange tale in this issue: "Smoky the Bear Sutra".

HAMSTERAMA #10 (1 stamp from 307 Chestnut, Pacific Grove, CA 93950): A sort of pfanzine that has difficulty concentrating on music and so discusses any topic it can catch. In #10 we have reviews of some Monterey tourist spots, a plea for ideas on changing the world ("All tha thistory has taught me is that things started out bad and are only getting worse"), stream-of-consciousness record reviews and lots of poetry and lyrics. Nifty.

HANDICAP NEWS Vol. 2 #9 (\$1 & SASE from Phyllis Burns, 272 N. 11th Ct., Brighton, CO 80601): News for and about the handicapped, concentrating on inventions that make life easier and recent medical advances. Full of contact addresses for support groups and the like. "Handicap" is widely defined: they cover everything from rheumatoid arthritis to spina bifida. Contacts for the handicapped and consciousness-raising for the rest of us. (I certainly never thought about emergency instructions that can be read by the blind and deaf before it was mentioned here).

HANDICAP NEWS Vol. 2 #10: Notes on anticipated budget cuts that affect the handicapped and a new section of poetry show up in this issue.

HANDICAPPERS are a field in which I have no expertise, but one of my correspondents recently sent me a batch of their publications. All of these claim they'll make you fantastic amounts of money betting on football and most of them claim to have a better track record than anyone else:

*THE AUSF HOT SHEET, PO Box 495, South Bend, IN 46624, \$4

*FOOTBALL FORECAST, 2601 Sisson St., Baltimore, MD 21211, \$5

*FOOTBALL HANDICAPPING DIGEST, PO Box 1250, Dubuque, IA 52001, \$7

*THE GOLD SHEET, 9255 Sunset Blvd. #200, Los Angeles, CA 90069, \$5

*JAMIE MELVIN'S INFORMATION PLUS, call 1-702-734-1312, \$6

*POINTWISE INFORMATION SERVICE, PO Box 307, Syracuse, NY 13201, \$3

*ROCKY'S WINNERS CIRCLE, PO Box 908, Pearl City, HI 96782, \$3.25

If anyone wants to write a half-page article comparing these mags (and any others in the field) let me know.

HARLEIAN MISCELLANY CLUB (Rt. 10 Box 52A, Florence, SC29501): The fine folks behind the SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER also run this mail-order book service. Basically they concentrate on libertarianism and related topics, but at the moment they're also selling a bunch of SF books. The prices are good -- down to new hardcovers for about \$4 and used paperbacks for a buck. Write for the most recent price list.

HARVEST Vol. 5 #8 (\$1.50 from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): HARVEST is a Neo-Pagan networking zine, striving to present interesting and useful information for the Wiccan in the modern world. Ritual, poetry, contacts (LOTS of contacts!), book reviews, ideas on pagan music and more appear in this issue. The Letters section has been growing lately, demonstrating that HARVEST has a lot of vocal and intriguing readers.

HARVEST Vol. 6 #1: For their fifth anniversary the HARVEST staff give us an interesting insight into themselves, discussing how they first got into the Craft and proving that even amazingly active pagans are just folks doin' stuff. Mama Sena starts a new series on forming a new coven, and Starspawn provides an exhaustive list of commercially-available music suitable for rituals.

THE HEATHEN SCIENCE MONITOR March 1985 (\$4/year from PO Box 3181, Traffic Station, Minneapolis, MN 55403): This is a bit out of date but it took a circuitous path to my desk. Sort of a sideways view of the news, I think some of it is local humor, but some is just baffling, like the interminable story of a man's vacation travels with his parents. I say send him a couple of stamps for a sample issue.

HERETIC'S JOURNAL BULLETIN #3 (Free from PO Box 12347, Seattle, WA 98111): Editor Ron Heresy is trying to find a path to "social and spiritual liberation", and this journal is one part of his search. This issue features thoughts on the need for a third force in Nicaragua, reports on a couple of new community endeavors (including New Hope and Kerista) and reviews of a couple of other New Age periodicals.

HIMALAYAN NEWS Sept./Oct. 1985 (Free from RR1, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431): Somebody wrote to say I'd been too hard on these folks, and maybe I have. Along with all the self-aggrandizement and Yuppie Yoga they do publish a couple of interesting and thought-provoking features. Swami Rama's parables are fun, the vegetarian recipes look good, and the hatha yoga instructions are clear and concise, so this is worth a look even if you don't want to shell out \$675 for a Holistic Health training course.

HOMESTEADERS NEWS #48 (\$2 from Sherrie & Norm Lee, Naples, NY 14512): Sherrie and Norm are immensely successful homesteaders who take great pleasure from sharing their knowledge from others. Currently they're off touring the country, presenting seminars on shelter, gardening, home schooling and other nifty stuff. HN quite simply gets better every issue, with ideas on how to live well and simply with the emphasis on useful hints rather than theory. This is the magazine to get if you're considering moving out to the country and escaping from it all.

ICA NEWS #3 (SASE from PO Box 20255, Condor Terrace Stn., New York, NY 10011): The ICA is the Independent Courier Association and this is a newsletter for its members, chiefly bike messengers in New York City. Formed as a response to an oppressive new law regulating bike messengers in that town, the ICA is looking for contacts and stories from messengers in other cities, with an eye towards forming an informal national network. Who knows, this could be the start of the next American Revolution.

IN THE CELLAR (about 50 cents from Bloody Mess, 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): At last, an answer to "Will it play in Peoria?" Apparently, if "it" is fast, loud and obnoxious, it will! This is the 7th zine from Mr. Mess (as the NY TIMES would no doubt refer to him) and the 7th different title, which makes his stuff maddening to file. Who cares, it's a blast to read. This issue features an interview with the infamous GG Allin (lead singer of the Scumfucs) and some really disgusting poetry. Also check out the stuff on the as-yet-unknown band TOWER OF SWINE.

INSIDE JOKE #39 (\$1 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Station, New York, NY 10159): This "Newsletter of Comedy and Creativity" is still going strong, amid a few staff changes. Stories, poetry and columns are what you'll find here. Inevitably some of the best stuff comes from Anni Ackner's column, but Rodny Dioxin also manages to amuse and Ho Chi Zen to confuse almost every issue. This is just folks havin' fun, and invitin' you to join them.

INSIDE JOKE #41: The Fifth Anniversary issue features Anni talking about the elements of modern culture which have passed her by, Ho Chi Zen wondering about his transcendental paranoia and Luke McGuff talking of his experiences during the Second Coming. Fun as usual, and I wish this review wasn't quite so rushed.

INTERNATIONAL MEGA-ZINES CATALOG #2 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 429, Bellmore, NY 11710): These folks are retailers of a whole lot of music magazines, mostly (I think) slick-paper ones. Certainly I don't recognize any titles from FF reviews. Their selection is truly international, including ENFER (France), BLOW UP (Japan), FLEXIPOP (UK) and plenty of others, mostly from the US and UK. Emphasis seems to be on mags with lots of pictures, or those with flexis or cassettes.

JAG Vol. 23 #8 (SASE from R.S. Jaggard, M.D., 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): Dr. Jaggard believes that welfare and income tax and social security are all frauds and that we ought to get a free enterprise system in place before the country goes to hell in a handbasket. He tries to implement this in his daily life, and spends his spare time trying to educate others through these occasional broadsides. "I want to effectively spread the good word, that freedom is available, and well worth the effort."

JERRYCO CATALOG #22 (50 cents from 601 Linden Pl., Evanston, IL 60202): Big sellers in the industrial and military surplus market. Prices range from ridiculously cheap to just plain ridiculous. Examples: Rubik's cube imitators for two bits; a mile of red tape for \$14.50; Velcro and Mylar in lots from \$2 to \$40; magnets, lenses, microscopes, Norden bombsights and other wonderful adult playtoys. They ship quickly and the prices are great -- and the catalog is pretty funny even if you don't order anything.

JERSEY BEAT #22 (\$1 from 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): Nice pfnzine with the emphasis on local groups and garage bands. They stay strictly away from the big names, preferring instead to do articles on groups like the Tryflies, Antietam, the Clintons and Spiral Jetty. Lots of connections here to small independent bands available strictly on tape, and none of the same old heavy-metal and thrash stuff from all those other pfnzines.

JERSEY BEAT #23: This issue asks "Whatever happened to hardcore?" and presents some of the best of post-hardcore, including Sonic Youth and Kraut. Includes as an insert a smaller zine, PUNKTEEN, "for folks too old to slamdance and too young for Easy Listening". PUNKTEEN is memorable for the video reviews and the Guest Editorial from FF's own Shane Williams.

JOURNAL OF ERICKSON'S STAGE 6 1/2 Vol. 2 #2 (SASE from 718 Clymer St., Philadelphia, PA 19147): I guess this is sort of the Media & Reality Review issue of JOE'S, though that's no doubt a more pretentious description than the editors would approve of. JOE'S is a dozen pages of excerpts from folks lives: the zines they read, the tapes they listen to, the commercials they think are worth snarling about, the cardboard they doodle on at work. If they made \$800,000 a year, this would be literature, but as it is, I think it's just good fun and a welcome way to blow off steam.

JOURNEY INTO SAVAGERY #2 (\$1 (?) from 145 Fox Run, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603): No cover price and you might be able to get a copy for any reasonable contribution. A rebellious punk zine that seems to be infusing concepts from Situationism, particularly the Society of the Spectacle, of which they give a lucid explanation in the centerfold. They give some ideas on how to fight this society and decry its worst parts (such as animal experimentation) in short essays interspersed with blunt graphics.

JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF TOMORROW (Trade ONLY from Dr. Ahmed Fishmonger, 534 Revere St., Revere, MA 02155): The author says of this collage pub "only original artwork or some object that will blow my mind" will be accepted in trade. A series of what seem to be 1950's science-publicity shots accompanied by mind-numbing captions that will convince you civilization is coming to an end next Sunday after teatime.

JUNK...AND OTHER CULTURE (\$5 from Mumbles Publications, PO Box 7243, Wichita, KS 67218): Mumbles editor John E has been doing too many Dangerous Drugs, or listening to too many Alice Cooper albums, or hanging around too many seedy movie theatres, or SOMETHING. This is a collection of strange vignettes, interspersed with distorted drawings of people that are by comparison quite natural. I don't think I care to discuss the subject matter too much -- let's just say that John concentrates remorselessly on the seedy side of life, the bloody knives, the rapes, the cigarettes and the cannibalism. Powerful writing, but definitely not for most people.

JURISDICTION JOURNAL AND SOVEREIGN REVIEW Spring 1985 (\$3 from PO Box 299, Provo, UT 84603): This Constitutionalist journal devotes a lot of space this issue to explaining some of what's gone on in the Tupper Saussy case, and is a good starting point if you want to find out more. Special kudos go to the editors for publishing, and answering, letters from people who disagree with them. Also features a list of patriots groups nationwide.

KALX PROGRAM GUIDE (\$1(?) from KALX Radio, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720): Lively tabloid from one of the more active college radio stations of today. This issue discusses news coverage of anti-apartheid actions at UC Berkeley, reviews a few dozen fanzines, analyzes funk and interviews the Dead Kennedys. Oh yeah, they also publish their complete broadcasting schedule.

KICK IT OVER #13 (\$1.50 from PO Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P2 CANADA): A long-lived and wonderful anarchist zine. The Toronto anarchists are linked with the punk rock scene, and this issue includes an interview with D.O.A., possibly on the assumption that it will suck in some of you innocent young punks. If you come for this, make a point of sticking around for the interview with Murray Bookchin (even though he and I disagree about the value of unemployment), the no-holds-barred fight over vegetarianism and the subversive cartoons excerpted from MIND THEATRE MAGAZINE. Good thoughts on organizing for the 80's too.

KLMN NEWS #1 (\$1 from 30119 Overholser Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424): This is the latest from Oness Press, a newsletter for the Kid's Lib Movement Network. This introductory issue focuses on sources and networking, listing resources for home-schooling, happy natural parenting, and so on. There are also a couple of articles from founder Mycall Sunanda, including "Original Sin is Really Birth Trauma" which draws together threads from Primal Scream to Sufism.

LAISSEZ-FAIRE BOOKS Fall 1985 CATALOG (\$3 from 532 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10012): These people sell by mail quite literally hundreds of libertarian books, both from the big names (Rand, Mises, Rothbard...) and the relatively unknowns (Helfferich, Fawcett, Smart...). They also offer a few cassettes, leather-bound deluxe editions, and other whatnot. The prices are generally close to publishers list, but they do offer plenty of sale books and discount plans in every catalog.

THE LEFT-HANDED REVIEW (\$1(?) from Zing Publications, PO Box 39188, Friendship Sta., Washington, DC 20016): A supplement to ZING magazine (which I haven't seen a copy of), LHR seems to contain a sort of smorgasbord of leftover thoughts and opinions. Leading off with an excellent interview with crazed filmmaker John Waters, editor Larry Navat soon finds himself trapped in a morass of sometimes-amusing lists: Top 20 TV Shows of all time, 10 best movies that sort of thing. Incomprehensible poetry and an article on cigarettes and sexual politics round out the mix. A guarded seal of approval.

LEVEL 8 (\$5 from PO Box 50164, Indianapolis, IN 46256): This is undoubtedly the most ambitious and successful MAN that I know of. LEVEL 8 is simply awesome, containing zillions of posters, a cassette tape, postcards, slides, stickers and other ephemera, much of which actually appear to be art rather than dross. LEVEL usually doesn't have back issues available, but you can send them money now for #9, to come out in April 1986, or better yet, write for details on submitting your own stuff to them. It's things like LEVEL that make me realize Mail Art is not merely the pointless joke that it sometimes appears to be. Worthy of the handmade burlap bag packaging.

LGLC NEWSLETTER #11 (\$2 from LGLC, PO Box 953, San Francisco, CA 94101): LGLC are the Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns, open to libertarians of all sexual preferences and homosexuals of all political persuasions, doing outreach from each group to the other. This issue features an article arguing that sexual preference is a non-issue for libertarians and a rebuttal to an anti-LGLC article from the Washington TIMES.

THE LIBERTARIAN DIGEST #35-36 (\$2 from Fred Foldvary, 1920 Cedar St., Berkeley, CA 94709): Just what it says, a digest of other magazines connected (sometimes peripherally) with the libertarian movement. Gives price, ordering info, and quickie article summaries for a variety of publications, big and little, partyarch and independent.

LINDSAY'S TECHNICAL BOOKS CATALOG #34 (\$1 from PO Box 12, Bradley, IL 60915-0012): Books for the garage mechanic, for the most part, with a few unusual items such as THE TARANTULA KEEPER'S GUIDE thrown in for good measure. I find myself particularly fascinated with Dave Gingery's series on outfitting a home workshop: first you build a charcoal foundry to make castings. Then you cast some parts and build a lathe. The lathe makes parts for the shaper and milling machine, which team up to make the drill press...you get the picture. Prices from \$3 to about \$20.

LITTLE FREE PRESS (Free from Ernest Mann, Rt. 2, Box 136A, Cushing, MN 56443): Ernest has this plan for ending wars, eliminating starvation, making everyone happy and a lot more, based on eliminating money from the world and working for free. I know, it sounds like a crazy idea, but it's much more rational in the context of his little pamphlets. The info is free to all who want it, at least in terms of money, but it would be nice if you'd make copies and send it on to other folks. Check this out at least once -- though I think the system is flawed, we must admit that radical ideas are needed to get the world out of the current mess.

THE LITTLEST UNICORN Vol. 1 #2 (\$7/year from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): This is a pagan zine aimed specifically at children, striving to fill them with a happy pagan attitude towards nature & life in general. It's also intended to be a forum for discussion of pagan parenting issues, but that part hasn't started up yet. I'd put the age group for this at about ten and under.

LIVING FREE #31 (\$1.25 from Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): This "Personal Journal of Self Liberation" is a refreshing change from all of the theoretical libertarian stuff around. Rather than discuss ethics or strategic weapons, Jim and his writers talk of vonu, sealing driveways, ocean living and such practical subjects. This issue also contains a welcome listing of periodicals received and a few excellent pages discussing Project Freenetwork.

THE LOG CABIN #78 (\$1 from Louisa Poulin, Siler Rt., Box 394, Winchester, VA 22601): This is the newsletter of the Mensa Back-to-the-Land Special Interest Group, now at a new address. Targeted for people living on farms or thinking of it, the publication is reader-written why mensans scattered around the country. Mostly consists of hints on farming, canning, cooking, homebuilding and so on, together with some chatty letters. Pleasant reading and fuel for dreams.

LOOMPANICS UNLIMITED 1985 FALL SUPPLEMENT (PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368): The latest installment of "the best book catalog in the world", this one is packed with typical LU offerings. Some titles: INVISIBLE WEAPONS OF THE MODERN NINJA, THE STORY OF DMSO, OUR ENEMY THE STATE and THE BOO HOO BIBLE. As always, Loompanics includes a couple of boffo articles, this time Bob Black writing on "Anarchists, anarchism and other Impediments to Anarchy" and a partial list of books banned in Canada. You should probably send a couple of bucks to these folks and get their main catalog along with the supplements.

MAGICK THEATRE #6 (\$3.50 from Raymond F. Young, PO Box 0446, Baldwin, NY 11510-0129): Billing itself as "The Magazine of Diverse Film Esoterica and Weird Science", this one gets off to a great start with detailed reviews of about twenty sleazy movies, from AMIN: THE RISE AND FALL to WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM (though I think they were far too harsh on the latter gem. Then again, so was every other reviewer in the free world). Following this are a couple of articles on strange people: Kaspar Hauser and Ed Gein. And then there are pages and more pages of oddball movies: PLAN 9, DAUGHTER OF HORROR and much more. Warning: a few disgustingly graphic photos might be too much for the unsuspecting reader.

THE MEMORY HOLE (\$1.25 from A.L.H., PO Box 94, Long Beach, CA 90801-0094): This is the "Revisionist History APA". Revisionist history seeks to understand historical events by looking at the class interests served by the historians who write it. Unfortunately the #1 revisionist topic is the Nazi extermination of the Jews, and thus revisionists are often tarred with the brush of anti-semitism. Well, some of them are and some of them aren't, and you can see all types here.

MESSAGE POST #19 (\$1 from PO Box 190, Philomath, OR 97370): Modestly calling itself a "Portable Dwelling Info-Letter", MP is put out by a bunch of folks who spend most of their time living more simply than the average American. This pub is full of their tips on how to do more with less: tents and lean-tos, portable showers, microfiche cheap flashlights and kerosene lamps all get space in this issue. One of the continuing great features of MP is the extensive section of further contacts, branching off into related fields such as natural foods, paganism and personal farming. Also of note are their reprinted "Light Living Library" articles.

META-SCOOP Vol. 2 #8 (\$10/year from 1004 Live Oak Ln., Arlington, TX 76012): This is a newsletter for those of us who are fascinated with the world. Editors Barbara Sowell and Deb Armstrong write of whatever catches their eye, often (but not necessarily) of things with a New Age slant. This issue is mainly devoted to the networkers at the Light of Christ Community Church and Seminary, a much more interesting organization than its name would lead you to believe.

META-SCOOP Vol. 2 #9: Positive-thinking cover article on all the nifty things WE can do to usher in the New Age, a review of the SKEPTICAL INQUIRER, a review of Michael Baran's work on Atlantis and related topics (see FF14 for more) and more keep up the good quality of this journal.

META-SCOOP Vol. 2 #10: The lead article is a sort of retrospective of oracles in history, but the real kicker in this issue is Barbara Sowell's article on how to destroy clouds in your spare time for no profit but lots of fun. Try it, you'll like it.

THE MILL HUNK HERALD Spring 1985 (\$1.50 from 916 Middle St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): A magazine for the average Joe, not run for profit but rather for the readers, who are also the writers. The editorial team consists of anyone who cares to show up, and the writers are mill workers, typesetters, teachers, nurses and others who work for a living at something other than writing. Stories of working and other things, poetry, graphics, thoughts on the system and just bits of life offered up to be shared with others. Fascinating stuff.

THE MONTHLY INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE TIMES JOURNAL POST GAZETTE NEWS CHRONICLE BULLETIN #32 (SASE from T.S. Child, 2510 Bancroft Way #207, Berkeley, CA 94704): This humor magazine is not quite as large as its title, but much funnier. Just this single issue features "Calendar oif an Organized Psychotic" (I almost bust a gut laughing -- but who sent them my calendar?), the World's Shortest Detective Story and some cheery news about decomposition. If you're not getting this I may not admit that I know you.

THE MONTHLY...BULLETIN #33: A full page of drawings from Denver Tucson and a cover letter printed in place of the story it accompanied are the highlights of this issue. And as always the bacover is occupied by Denver Tucson's tales of the Bone Family, a group of happy-go-lucky middle-class skeletons.

THE MONTHLY...BULLETIN #34: A very important issue. The reason for this is that it contains the first explanation of shabbism, soon to become a major international youth movement. And besides, there are more cartoons proving conclusively that MARMADUKE is a menace to innocent young minds everywhere. I sure hope back issues are available for you poor suckers that didn't get this one.

THE MORON SCANDAL #2 (\$1 from 3133 Harriet Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408): Black and white xerox underground comic put together by people with a warped sense of humor. "The Last Survivors", a poor man's ON THE BEACH, was pretty funny, but the real find here is "The Apocalypse" a politically- and paleontologically-correct account of the demise and fall of the dinosaurs. We need more talents like these in our papers, instead of CATHY.

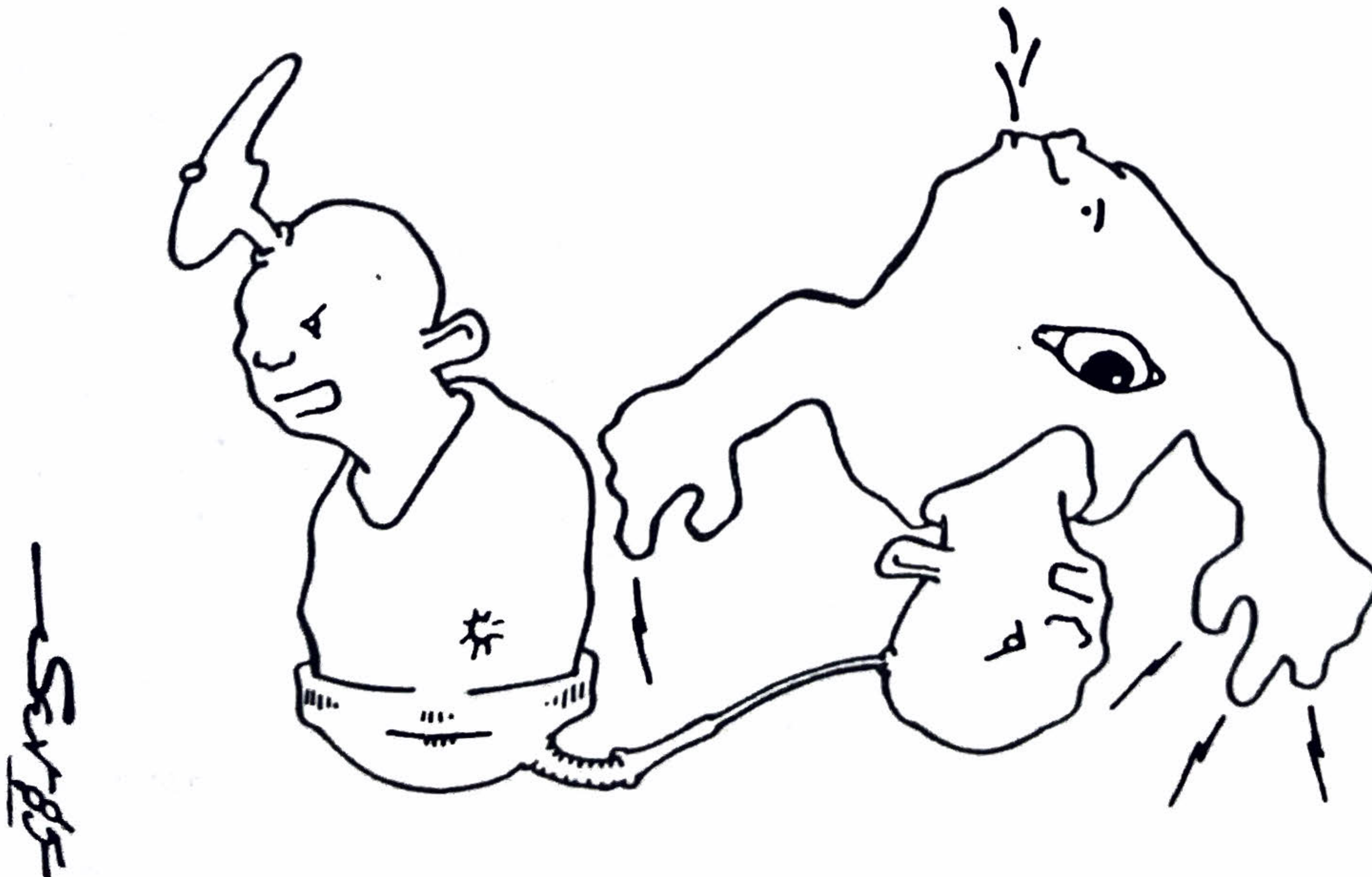
MURDERER's WORK #1 (SASE from Jake Berry, 501 N. Pine #2, Florence, AL 35630): "I want to help assassins get published" says the editor, who then proceeds to fill his single sheet with obscure and disturbing poems. Lots of death & depression here and no stab at redeeming social value. For a stamp it's worth seeing if it speaks to you.

THE NATIONAL BOYCOTT NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #2 (\$2/yr from 6506 28th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115): This is an essential resource for the harried ethical consumer who's trying to keep score in the supermarkets. The publishers present clear, concise information on all the boycotts they know of, giving the target, the sponsoring group, and the reason for the boycott. The reader is left to make up his own mind in each case after the facts are presented. This one will help keep your money from going to the contras or being spent on nukes, at least to some extent.

N D 4 (\$2 from PO Box 4144, Austin, TX 78765): A well-done zine hovering somewhere around the cutting edge of art. Flipping around at random, I run across the Media Space methodology for art analysis, announcements for mail art shows, record and zine reviews and a French/English press release on the actions of French musicians Die Form. The absolute greatest thing here is the Misery Research Center's half-page on mail-art, with a list of six simple steps anyone can follow to become a mail artist. A few people whose egos need deflating ought to read this.

NEOLOGY Vol. 10 #3 (\$1 or The Usual from ESFACAS, PO Box 4071, Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8 CANADA): Those funny initials stand for Edmonton Science Fiction And Comic Art Society, and this is one sfzine that discusses SF, along with assorted "fringefan" topics such as comics, roleplaying, and Star Trek. This issue contains the start of a guide to media fanzines -- you know, ones about Star Trek or Dr. Who, a subject in which your humble reviewer is completely unschooled.

NEO-TECH (Free from PO Box 11185, Paradise, NV 89111): For the trouble of writing, you can get their 8000-word information package on "The Most Important Money/Power/Romantic-Love Discovery Since the Industrial Revolution". This is apparently the latest venture of Dr. Frank R. Wallace, formerly an industrial chemist and professional poker player. I'm not going to invest \$70 in their 632-page information package, so what the secret is, I can't say, but the introductory package is some of the greatest snake-oil available outside the Church of the SubGenius.



NEW LIBERTARIAN Vol. 4 #15 (\$2.50 from 1515 W. MacArthur Blvd. #19, Costa Mesa, CA 92626): Still more-or-less on schedule, the most outspoken of the anarcho-libertarian zines continues to amaze and delight. The meat of this issue is the continuance of the debate over whether Natural Law exists or not -- if the question means a thing to you, you should get this. I think the editor interjects a bit too much of his own personality into the articles he disagrees with, but at least both sides of the argument get presented. For the serious thinker and the serious rabble-rouser both.

NEW LIBERTARIAN NOTES & CALENDAR 15.1: This is available with your NL subscription but not separately. Bridging the gap between NL issues, it offers a schedule of supper clubs and the like, together with quick bits of Movement news. This issue discusses what Sam Konkin did on his summer vacation.

THE NEW NUMBER TWO (SASE from PO Box 12221, Minneapolis, MN 55412): OK, anyone who prints his zine on the back of RPGII coding forms can't be all bad. (That's a computer language, not a role-playing game). I find myself completely baffled by this two-pager. It's certainly not a zine that can be categorized. I guess it's sort of a stream-of-unconsciousness thing, with bits and pieces of writing and collage.

THE NEWSLETTER #41 (SASE from Mark Ziesing, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): Mark sells SF books in his shop, at conventions and by mail. This is his mail-order catalog. Mostly stuff you won't find in the B.Dalton's down the street, from \$3 paperbacks, to older hardcovers and \$55 special sets with autograph. Mark also publishes some fine hardcovers himself, a few of which you will find reviewed later on in the BOOKS section.

N.I.R. #27 (\$1(?) from Andy Anderson, 311 Natchez Ct., #E-1, Nashville, TN 37211): Another free local tabloid, which is why I'm having trouble putting a price on it -- you're supposed to go to Nashville and pick it up at your record store, OK? But if you had sent for this one, you would have gotten an in-depth article on local unknowns 69 TRIBE, stuff on local boys made good JASON AND THE SCORCHERS, a couple of other groups and some record reviews, including a few reviewed in 3 words or less (maybe I should try that for zines some time). Not a bad effort.

THE NOISE #42 (\$8/year from 74 Jamaica St., Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA 02130): "Rock Around Boston", it says, and they're not lying. Well-produced guide to local bands and gigs, containing the most astonishing gossip and best photos in town. Throwing Muses are the featured band for this issue, and watch out 'cause they're hot and this isn't the last you'll hear of them. Also features an interview with local new music guru Albert O and news of recent and upcoming vinyl from the Beantown area.

THE NOISE #43: More hot gossip, a batch of local vinyl, an interview with club-owner Chet (anyone as BIG as he is is allowed to have no last name) and a big feature on Gang Green highlight this issue. Also contains a very funny comic examining the sociology of rock band breakups.

NOMOS Vol. # #5 (\$3 from 9857 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60643): Subtitled "Studies in Spontaneous Order", this libertarian magazine has seen explosive growth over the past three years and is now an impressive slick-covered bi-monthly journal of freedom. Their "Connections" section features lots of contacts in the movement and their articles are generally refreshingly concise and well-written. This issue features thoughts on continuing the tax revolt and extensive articles on libertarian defense strategy, a notably thorny subject. NOMOS encourages reader participation in these debates, and as a result presents a wide variety of viewpoints.

NON-STOP BANTER Vol. 1 #3 (\$1 from Debbie Novak, 94th Ave. & 167th St., Orland Park, IL 60462): Nicely-produced Chicago-area pfanzone concentrating on interviews of bands, either passing through town or living there. Green, Husker Du, the Three O'Clock and the Fleshtones grace this issue -- a good mix. The interviews come across more as conversations than the Standard Questions, which is a welcome change. But the best section of the mag is "Familiarity Breeds...", a section of reviews of music that you won't have heard of before, even in the pfanzines.

NOT MEMO 45 (50 cents from Vinnie Bartilucci, 45 Newburgh St., Elmont, NY 11003): A hardcore, hard-sell SubGenius evangelist zine. Sort of like Chick Comics put through a word processor with the works of HP Lovecraft and the collected movies of the Three Stooges. Mostly meant to exhort the faithful to more effort, but also contains subtle recruiting come-ons for the skeptic.

NOVUS #27 (\$1.50 from PO Box 152, Honolulu, HI 96810): A very eclectic and professional pfanzone from the Aloha State. Editor Burt Lum gives space to new music, jazz and traditional Hawaiian music (represented this issue by the native band I Kona), and even a bit of comics stuff. Plenty of record and tape reviews. Interviews this issue include New Order and Branford Marsalis. It's good to see a zine emphasizing the common ties between alternative music of all genres.

NOVUS #28: Interviews with Translator and George Jones (he's a country singer, for those of you who don't know), articles on Bushido and Kalapana, and plenty of record and tape reviews. NOVUS continues to be slick and impressive. Watch for the forthcoming cassette compilation.

NO WORRIES #5 (95 cents from PO Box 13201, Gainesville, FL 32604): A nifty pfanzone from a bunch of folks who clearly have a lot of fun in life. Features two pages of bowling news, some good advice on Dangerous Drugs, and music reviews and interviews covering penetrating topics such as fishing and ice cream flavors (Tuna?). Clearly the Florida music scene is active and enjoyable.

OMNITHAGERUM #1 (\$3 from Vinnie Bartilucci, 45 Newburgh St., Elmont, NY 11003): A new SubGenial rantzine. Glossary of church terms, a SubGenial fable, Dobbstown Diary (describing strange experiences at the secret training center in Malaysia) and a historical study of the past lives of J.R. "Bob" Dobbs. A well-rounded piece of insanity, with invaluable information for members of the One True Church.

ONOMA 3 (The Usual from G.A. Bryant, Rue Jean Pauly, 121, B-4300 ANS, BELGIUM): A sfanzine atypically concentrating on SF. We have here an article on Czech SF, there a short story, over here a review of Ursula LeGuin's THE EYE OF THE HERON. It's all held together with a massive letter column and a few more typically fannish pieces (space program report, thoughts on European gestures), but somehow the whole thing has an unfinished feel, like an undercooked cake.

OPTION D2 (\$2.50 from Sonic Options Network, PO Box 491034, Los Angeles, CA 90049): Massive (80+ typeset pages) magazine of alternative and independent music. Each issue has a loosely alphabetic theme: thus this one features articles on Willie Dixon, the Droogs, Dead Kennedys and so on. Along with the thoughtful articles there are plenty of ads from music producers and hundreds of reviews of records and tapes from all over.

OUTER SHELL #2 (SASE & 20 cents from PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): One-sheet eclectic pfanzone. This issue features general musical thoughts rather than specific musical reviews, with a main theme seemingly "What's screwed about ASCAP". Also includes a Live Aid retrospect and some thoughts on creativity and boredom in the music biz.

PAGAN PARENTS' LEAGUE Newsletter #3 (SASE from PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY, 11706 [address due to change before Yule, so write now]): Fledgling magazine of a new networking organization, dedicated to discussing and helping with the problems of being both a Pagan and a parent, or just a Pagan involved in a relationship. They hope to offer support, guidance and contacts of interest to those involved in the pagan movement.

PAPER COLLECTORS' MARKETPLACE oct. 1985 (\$2 from 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): Another specialized mag from the folks who bring you GOLDMINE. This one is for those interested in, among other things, magazines, newspapers, posters, maps, pulps, catalogs, photographs and other paper goods as objects to collect. This is indeed a "marketplace", being solely a collection of ads from people who want to buy or sell such things as the 1958 PLAYBOY Wall Calendar, 100 different cigar box labels, or Kentucky Derby memorabilia.

PARADOX Catalog Spring/Summer 1985 (\$1 from 20445 Gramercy Pl., PO Box 2896, Torrance, CA 90509-2896): Zillions of records from Lee Aaron to Zulu Compilations. Prices range from about \$5 to \$50 for special items (boxed sets, rare imports and other whatnot).

PC NEWSLETTER 7 (\$5/6 issues from 1725 E. 115th St., Cleveland, OH 44106): PC stands for Pollution Control, a new music distribution service that's doing part of the job of bringing obscure performers and obscure radio stations together. If you make records or tapes you should get in touch with PC about distributing your product. The rest of you might just like to read it. This issue reviews a couple of little radio stations (a novel idea), lists a batch of music networkers, reviews shitloads of zines and continues a series of reports on the ASCAP/BMI royalties system.

PEACE OIL FOR A RAT BRAIN COMICS #1 & #2 (25 cents and a stamp each from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): From the gal who does FOR YOUR SKULL and SPOOKY PAWS come these new minicomics. Minimalist but interesting art, crisp and clear -- definitely there is artistic talent here. The stories are pretty gloomy. #1 is "Nowhere Man", apparently a narrative from someone who has completely broken with consensus reality. #2 is "Black", the tale of the decline and fall of a punk nihilist.

PEARLS OF WISDOM Vol. 27 #63 (\$40/year from The Summit Lighthouse, Box A, Malibu, CA 90265): "Dictated by the Ascended Masters to their Messenger Elizabeth Claire Prophet"> In this case the AM in question is the Virgin Mary, who rambles on about talking to her son Jesus two days ago in Camelot, that we should comfort one another in the travail of karma and so on, encouraging us to buy a book about the "Lost Years of Jesus" (which TSL conveniently sells) and so on. Funny, but not \$40 a year worth of funny.

PHALLOS August 1985 (\$5/yr from St. Priapus Church, 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): St. Priapus is the patron saint of priapic worship, or so these people would have us believe. Their church has been active in social work among the SF gay community, and has occasionally gotten mentioned in the press due to its somewhat unusual ceremonies. Lots of information here on phallic worship, erotic minorities, and the anti-circumcision movement.

PLANET DETROIT MAGAZINE #6 (\$2.50 from Kurt Nimmo, PO Box 28414, Detroit, MI 48228): A massive poetry zine that is refreshingly "not copyrighted, supported by grants or foundations, and it is unaffiliated with any organization, committee or academic program". In other words, this is just poets writing poetry, except that it branches out to include a couple of essays and the wonderfully Cornelian fictional set of vignettes DANNY, DANNY DONTCHA CRY NO MORE by J. Michael Walsh. Of the poetry, I only want to single out Colburn Macgill Martin's "The Last of the Stegosauri", an interesting analysis of technological unemployment. The rest you'll have to read for yourself.

POET MANIFESTO (25 cents from manic d press, 1853 Stockton, San Francisco, CA 94133): "The anglo-american poetic tradition is at its lowest point in history," begins this pamphlet which then goes on to examine the decline and fall of poetry in greater detail. It concludes with a stirring plea to save the sleeping conscious mind of America from itself and the admen: "LONG LIVE POETRY!...IGNORE EVERY WORD OF THIS!"

POETSHEET #2 (SASE from Realities Library, 2745 Monterey Hwy. #76, San Jose, CA 95111-3129): A one-sheeter covering the poetry subset of the small-press world. This issue consists almost entirely of reviews of various magazines and chapbooks, along with an explanation of the esoteric meaning of the zine's title.

POOR MAN'S CATALOG 5 (\$3 from PO Box 23, Highland Park, MD 20777): The poor man is Johnny Blackwell, who sells blueprints for hundreds of do-it-yourself projects that the dedicated entrepreneur can (perhaps) turn into profitable businesses. For about \$2 to \$6, you can find out about things like beer-can hats, metal detectors, homebrew beer, boomerangs, publicity brochure writing and lots more.

POWER FOR LIVING #4 (\$1 from David Roth, 2521 Irving S., Minneapolis, MN 55405): The pfranzine featuring the supercharged artificial heart on the cover. Interviews, live show reports, record and zine reviews. Ferret (see above) makes a guest appearance with a chainsaw, and Das Damen's manager sounds like a real asshole in the interview. My copy came with a spider squished between the pages, but that may have been a bribe for a good review and not part of the standard copy.

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 3 #1 (\$6/6 issues from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): A newsletter for libertarians who feel that the libertarian movement is best promoted on practical rather than idealistic grounds. This issue features defense of pragmatism against attacks from two quarters: the Natural Law movement spearheaded by Murray Rothbard and a neo-Randian Objectivist smear on libertarians generally. A refreshing change.

PROMETHEUS Vol. 3 #3 (\$8/year from Ben Olson, RR1, Box 114, Pocahontas, IA 50574): This is the newsletter of the Libertarian Futurist Society, an organization of folks who want to turn technological trends to personal freedom while having a good time. They sell buttons and books, award the Prometheus Award for Libertarian SF, and publish this newsletter. Book and film reviews and discussions with libertarian authors are the heart of it, along with occasional articles on topics like environmentalism or the space program and its private competitors.

PSYCHIC PRESS NEWSPAPER May, 1985 (Free from PO Box 1556, Franklin, NC 28734): Astrological forecast for the month, a contact listing of reputable psychics and astrologers, an article on the karmic danger of some self-help methods and random True Experiences. This is a family operation, run by Mr. & Mrs. Harvey and their daughter.

PSYCHIC PRESS June 1985: Features an article congratulating themselves on true predictions six months earlier (among them: AIDS will spread rapidly) and the beginning of a column on the Tarot Major Arcana.

PSYCHIC PRESS August 1985: Offers a new service, a "Single's Registry" that matches folks up astrologically for only \$20. They also offer needlepoint patterns, psychic readings, astrological charts and so on.

PUBLIC PROPERTY Fall 1985 (Free from Circle Arts/West, 1350 Florida St., San Francisco, CA 94110): Supported by contributions, Circle Arts is behind a number of projects apparently designed to make us all artists. This one is a digest that publishes all submissions without editorial comment. As such, it resembles a MAN, though it has almost as much prose as mail art in its pages. And as one might expect, the quality is rocky. Though there are some thought-provoking poems and interesting art here, there are also things on a kindergarten level that don't warrant killing trees for.

PUKE ON THE WORLD #12 (SASE from 3133 Harriet Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408): Another one-sheeter from the wildest of the Twin Cities. POTW offers us astounding advice, parodies of a certain newspaper tabloid ("My Drunken Opinions, by Ed Asshole"), a quiz to tell you if you're cool (hint: taking the quiz itself isn't cool), a serialized porno novel, and a comic strip featuring a young gentleman who has decided to drop out of the human race and become a nuthatch. Not bad for a single sheet of paper.

THE PV NETWORK NEWS August 1985 (\$15/yr from Rt. 2, Box 274, Santa Fe, NM 87501): A newsletter for the person who intends to install -- or have installed -- photovoltaic power as a primary power source. The members of the PV Network pool their experience here to guide beginners in the right direction and point out new uses for the experienced PV'er. Recent issues have featured a discussion of the pros and cons of using inverters to get AC current from DC solar cells.

R.A.D. #32 (87 cents from PO Box 867, Morro Bay, CA 93442): Pfanzone from the other coast. This issue features mainly reviews of music. First there's Mykel Board, well-known NY punk-about-town, with more in his series of "Music From Nowhere", featuring such unlikely groups as Copernicus, Anti Cimex and Radio Rats. Then comes "Today's Background Noises" and "Soundtracks of Your Life", uncredited reviews of current stuff. Also live gig reports, comics and a map of Morro Bay.

RANDOM WRITINGS #3 (\$1 cash or \$2 check from Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): A collection of Jim's writings that don't fit into either THE CONNECTION or LIVING FREE. Much of this consists of extended replies to the points raised by others in TC, but set out in such a manner as to be accessible even to those who haven't read what comes before. Thoughts this issue on the most minimal state, Bernard Goetz, ownership & knowledge and lots more.

RAUNCH-O-RAMA INFORMATION SHEET #2 (SASE from Brad Goins, PO Box 2432, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): A one-sheeter devoted to "noisy" and industrial music, stuff that is so far out the listener has to learn how to hear it before it can be appreciated. This issue features blurbs on Bene Gesserit, Human Flesh, the Swans and Der Akteur. Much of this music is European, and Brad gives contact addresses for all the folks he reviews.

REALITIES 6 (\$5/12 issues from 2745 Monterey Hwy. #76, San Jose, CA 95111-3129): A small poetry mag that's been vacillating somewhat in format and seems to have settled down to digest size. This issue is subtitled "Corporal Works", and consists entirely of stuff by Robert Lima. Lima writes cryptically, in images rather than sentences, and with an earthy, somewhat sensual tone. Each poem seems to capsulize one flash of feeling, without the overlay of thought.

RIDING THE BLINDS #4 (75 cents from Richard Lopez, PO Box 1441, Cambridge, MA 02238): Lots of interviews and record reviews together with the other normal stuff you find in a pfanzone. Christmas and Husker Du are the cover bands this time around, with LeRoi Brothers, Dogmatics and Tex and the Horseheads also featured. Nothing spectacular, but a lot of pages for the money.

ROCK & ROLL CONFIDENTIAL #29 (\$1.25 from Box 1073, Maywood, NJ 07607): This is a no-nonsense, no-graphics, tightly-edited newsmagazine for those interested in rock music. It concentrates on issues and trends rather than bands or records, and as a result fills a market need that no one else does. Thoughtful articles in this issue about corporate sponsorship of musicians, insurance rates at concerts, and record censorship. Of course, the music isn't completely absent: a full page of tips on what's up and coming and some thoughts on Neil Young's latest album are in this issue.

RUMBA 19/85 (\$2 from PO Box 269, SF-00181, Helsinki, FINLAND): This is a weell-produced music tabloid. It has nice photos, color covers, and articles on lots of musicians and groups, ranging from Kiss to the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Diana Ross. It is also entirely in Finnish, so I can't tell you much more about it. The price would be dirt cheap even if it were in English, though.

THE RUNESTONE #53 (\$9/year from AFA, PO Box 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024): The AFA is the Asatru Free Assembly, a group attempting to revive the old Norse religion. Asatru is a "pagan but not primitive" religion, stressing self-reliance and independence from the state, or at least that's how I read their literature. RUNESTONE contains articles on gods and ritual, bits of history, announcements of forthcoming events, and letters from AFA members.

SCHMOCK #4 (\$1 from Armin Hofman, Bulerstr. 5, 7277 Wildberg 1, West Germany): This pfanzone is published in Germany, written in English, and covers music from around the world. Punk in Poland (yes, that's right, Poland), Japan, England, Holland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Denmark and probably a couple of others I missed are covered in this one, sometimes in the form of scene reports, sometimes in record and tape reviews. Also an amusing note from the English Customs and Excise Office explaining why #3 was not allowed into that country.

SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS #773 (Free from House of Prayer for All People, nc., PO Box 837, Denver, CO 80201-0837): Wild Christian visionary literature, wrapping a lot of biblical quotes together with an offbeat theology, references to UFOs and the Hollow Earth, the need to tithe, the coming end of the world, and much more. Reads like the source literature for the Church of the SubGenius.

SI July-August NEWSLETTER (PO Box 1940, Redondo Beach, CA 90278): They don't say what SI stands for but my guess would be "Survivalist International", for this is a catalog of survivalist equipment and supplies. Let's just mention a few items: dehydrated food (including a \$595, one-year supply); radiation meters; tents; books; grain mills; portable generators; slingshots; and lots more. No price on this one; I'd guess a polite request would get you a copy and a dollar would assure it.

SICK TEEN 11+12+13+14 (24 cents & 22 cents postage from PO Box 918, Green Bay, WI 54305): Back after an extended absence, this "pun krock" pfanzone is more confusing and intense than ever. The Rev. Ugly, who puts out ST, is of the "if it doesn't move, glue it in" school of layout, and the visual experience of trying to decipher the marginalia surrounding the thousands of live show and record reviews is quite bizarre. Lots of neat-o exclusives in this issue, like the smarmiest Henry Rollins interview you ever want to read (a lot more fun than his usual pretension). A bargain.

SILENT SCREAM #3 (\$1 & 1 stamp from J. Pat, 4523 E. 40th, Tulsa, OK 74135; issues 1-4 for \$3 & 1 stamp): A pfanzone specifically for "Hardcore & Speed Metal". One unusual feature is the reprinting of flyers for shows, an excellent idea -- someone should be preserving these ephemera of the punk scene. Most of the rest of the zine is interviews, along with lots of ads, since the ad rats for labels are so ridiculously low. Much nicer printing and paper than the average pfanzone as well.

SILENT SCREAM #4: Interviews with The Outpatients, The Devil's Advocates and Watchtower (How many punk bands can YOU name with religious names?), a bunch of comics and graphics plus a couple of free stickers. The bacover is a beautiful full-page skull-and-castle graphic for the typical metalhead. SILENT SCREAM is one of the best-looking pfanzones around today.

SKATE AND SPURS #3 (75 cents from PO Box 3416, Peoria, IL 61614): These people are crazy. It's not their dedication to reviewing American (ie, not English imports) punk that makes me say that. Nor is it the Lone Justice interview or the live show report from when Los Lobos played Balgium. No, it's the pictures of people in helmets, knee- and elbow-pads riding skateboards down the front of near-vertical skate ramps. I presume most of them died shortly after these awesome photos were taken. Well, other people jump out of planes or off cliffs suspended by hang-gliders, so I suppose they're not all that crazy, but I sure as hell wouldn't do it.

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC #27 (75 cents from IUP, PO Box 80, New York, NY 10159): Published by the Industrial Union Party, a radical working-class organization dedicated to revolution rather than reform. This issue analyses what's wrong with the craft union system as it exists today (it sets the workers against each other rather than their common enemy), suggests that robots may doom the system, and includes a lively letters section from fellow travelers wrestling with the old problem of how best to organize.

SOUND CHOICE #3 (\$2.50 from PO Box 1251, Ojai, CA 93023): Having abandoned the limiting alphabetical format of its ancestor OP, SC is now one of the premier independent music zines around. The main topic in this issue is the cassette and its effects (as some wag has put it, "Home taping is ruining the record industry, so be sure to do your part"), with articles on several far-out cassette projects (such as a Netherlands radio station that plays every cassette it receives) and some pretentious thoughts on how society may be changing to accomodate this invention. Also contains zillions of reviews of records and tapes, alike only in that they didn't come from major labels. SC does more for noise than I do for print.

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER 7/85 (\$5/year from John Harllee, Rt. 10, Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): A zine of clippings and digests of news of libertarian interest, along with a few original items. Tends to make the government look funny rather than menacing. A few random items: Where to write to support a Cambodian freedom fighter, post office evicted because their rent check was delayed in the mails, newspaper article on the Canadian Rhino Party. There should be something here to brighten your day.

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER 8/85: A major original article considers the optimal size of countries and concludes it should be small, calling for liberation of everything from the Ukraine to Dixie. In other news, the Iroquois Indians have filed suit questioning the right of the Feds to draft their young men.

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER 9/85: Muggers extracting gold teeth in Kenya, an editorial attacking Social Security (and making some good points) and a letter on behalf of the Paul Jacob Defense Fund stand out in this issue. (Write the latter at PO Box 15724, Little Rock, AK 72231 to help with Paul's legal expenses).

SOUTHERN LIFESTYLE #11 (50 cents from PO Box 10932, Raleigh, NC 27605): Partly a pfanzine and partly just a study of life in the South. The front cover features conversations with some guys who live under the Morgan Street bridge; inside are strange stories and poems, record reviews, and a centerfold on Nicaragua and the Pledge of Resistance. "If you don't like it so what," say the editors, "Go start your own magazine." Words to live by.

SOUTHERN LIFESTYLE Vol. II #1: Now free if you can get it locally or \$5 per year. A wide variety of art and near art continues to grace the pages of SL, with this issue featuring a personal account of a visit to Nicaragua, a blurb on the Raleigh Artworkers project, and a hilarious collage plugging Designer Revolution so that Yuppies can cash in on the coming radical backlash.

SOUTHERN LIFESTYLE Vol. 11 #2: Very interesting article in this issue on the Twin Oaks community, a 20-year old commune originally founded on Skinnerian principles which has grown and thrived. The other high point is "rebel without a cough", a manifesto advocating drunk driving, traffic violations, and public urination as civil disobedience. Reminiscent of the Groucho Marxists.

SPACE TIME CONTINUUM AND YOUR POCKET WRENCH #1 (SASE (?) from 7824 Kismet St., Miramar, FL 33023): The publisher says this is a "sarcastic - social - commentary - mag", and I guess I'll go along with that. Printed on a selection of bright and cheery paper, the pages are filled with ranting, raving, and strange pictures. An outburst of creativity from unnamed co-conspirators. Check out the "Dead Animal Road Count" and the staggeringly existential "The Burger King Massacre, or Why OUR Bodies are 98% Secret Sauce".

SPARE CHANGE (\$1 from Kerry Thornley, 2981 Lookout Place NE< Atlanta, GA 30305): SPARE CHANGE is a customized weapon designed to penetrate your brain and turn you into a gibbering baboon. Thornley is of course one of the original Kennedy conspirators, and SC is a selection of posters, tailored to the recipient, often with subtle anti-authoritarian overtones. Strange things may turn up in your copy: SubGenius literature, stock certificates, Dried mammoth flesh and drug-induced collages have been known to appear. Would be condemned by the PTA if only they knew.

SPEW AND REVIEW #7 (SASE from Bob Konshak, 1490 East Ryan Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109-4441): Opinionated one-pager loosely centering around music and using it as a springboard to comment on life in general. The editor and his columnists put down Springsteen in favor of the Village People, if that gives you any idea of what this one is like. Funnier than hell, actually, particularly the hate mail and the ten-second record review (Sting loses). Send for this one and see for yourself what I'm trying to talk about.

SPOOKY PAWS #3 (22 cent stamp from 10800 Des Moines Ave., Northridge, CA 91326): This is a zine all about cats, but it's hardly 'PET-LOVERS MONTHLY'. Lots of strange drawings of strange feline critters, interview with Salem (who appears to be a chocolate-point Siamese), and a diary of a cat. Strange and amusing.

SPORADIC DROOLINGS #3 (\$1 from PO Box 1092, Kearny, NJ 07032): Sporadic, but copious -- 80 pages in this issue. A large chunk of it is interviews: Newtown Neurotics, DOA, Naked Raygun, Plan 9 and many more loud and raucous people. A few record and live show reviews round out the zine, but the interviews are definitely the heart of it. Long and chatty, they definitely get over the sense of the various bands as people rather than just performers.

SRAF BULLETIN 90 (Donation from PO Box 1751, San Francisco, CA 94101): This is the recently-revived apa of the Social Revolutionary Anarchist Foundation, a loose grouping of anarchists and anti-authoritarians across the country. SRAF hasn't been doing well in recent years, but a new production group has taken over and new life seems to be creeping back into the Bulletin. At their worst, the letters herein are dated bickering; at their best, they are investigations into the roots of anarchism. Worth taking a look at.

THE STAR BLAZERS FANDOM REPORT #16 (SASE from PO Box 4912, Clifton, NJ 07015-4912): Star Blazers is one of the more successful Japanese cartoons, having been the subject of three movies, comic books and I don't know what else. This newsletter is for their English-language fans, containing pictures from the series, stories and contacts, and some general Japanimation news.

STRIDER August, 1985 (\$12/year from Lorne Strider, PO Box 554, Laytonville, CA 95454): Caustic libertarian commentary from Mendocino County. This issue features stories on the interaction between feminism & the state (to the detriment of women), a map of Gorbachev's brain, and thoughts on Coca-Cola and capitalism.

STRIDER September, 1985: An article condemning the anti-marijuana raids in Northern California, another pointing out the absurdities of zoning laws, and some fiction on the end of the legal system as we know it combine to make pleasant and easy anti-State reading.

SUBURBAN MUCKRAKER #666 (50 cents from 8814 Appleseed Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45242): A pfanzone concentrating on the Ohio scene -- interviews with one band from Cincinnati and one from Cleveland in this issue. Also contains the usual record and fanzine reviews, and more gossip than most pfanzones.

SURREAL ESTATES 3 (\$1.50 CASH ONLY from Revo, PO Box 23061, Knoxville, TN 37933-1061): Surrealist mag that is deliberately hard to review as it changes its style and format every issue. This is the poster issue, containing two copies each of five different collages (one to keep and one to mail to an unsuspecting friend). As such it edges towards mail art, but with future issues being all-text, and even all-tape, so it will edge back away again. Don't dally in ordering as quantities are strictly limited. As for the collages, if you're not familiar with the works of Maka Dudi, Donna Kossy, and Revo himself, you should be.

SYNTHESIS #20 (\$3.75/5 issues from League for Ecological Democracy, PO Box 1858, San Pedro, CA 90733): "A newsletter and journal for social ecology", SYNTHESIS is concerned with making man and nature an integrated whole instead of uneasy antagonists. The buzzwords in the area are things like "Green politics", "bioregions" and "deep ecology", and SYNTHESIS is an excellent way to get started in networking in these areas. Emphasis is on changing the world through alternative politics, rather than anti-political action.

TANTRALINI NEWS #1 (\$1 from 30119 Overholser Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424): A new journal from Oness Press apparently dedicated to encouraging open sexual attitudes among all people and more pleasure in the universe. It suffers a bit from the usual Oness press tendency towards coining new words ("tithery"?), as well as from not really having anything to say in this first issue.

TAX LOVER'S TRUTH LETTER Vol. 2 #7 (\$12/year from PO Box 22431, St. Louis, MO 63126): Not quite Constitutionalist but of the same ilk, concentrating on what's wrong with our monetary system (fiat money) and what can be done to right it (gold standard). The author uses Two Dollar Bills with short paragraphs on the back to promote his ideas, and claims that 5% of merchants attempt to give him change for them. Send him a buck for a selection of the Twes and see for yourself what it's all about.

THIRD RAIL #7 (SASE (?) from PO Box 1576, Stillwater, OK 74076): Another pfanzone without a cover price. The music covered is generally fast and loud: N.O.T.A., Minor Threat, and Social Unrest crop up in the live and recorded music reviews. There's also a strong dose of social consciousness here, ranging from a bluntly simple anti-apartheid statement to the movie review titled "Halfwit Porno Star Makes it Big Fanning the Flames of Fascism" (about RAMBO, for anyone who couldn't figure it out).

THE THOUGHT Vol. 5 #5 (\$3/4 issues from PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): The journal of the Philosophers Guild. Most of the articles seem to be by National Director Ron Tobin, which makes me wonder just how many members this Guild has. For the most part the PG seems interested in promoting anarchism, and the articles generally give a free-market anarchist view of the world. This issue features articles condemning anarcho-feminism as divisionary and putting forth selfishness as a virtue a la Ayn Rand.

THE THOUGHT Vol. 5 #6: Ron Tobin condemns panarchy as an unworkable system, reports on Dagny's Freedom Festival '85, speculates on social conformity, and reports amusingly on his experiences on the Wally George "Hot Seat" program. THE THOUGHT seems to be getting more interested in prisoners' rights lately; perhaps it will fill the gap left by LIBERTARIAN LOGOS.

THUNDERBOW #92 (\$6/year from Church of Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St., #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033): The CSA is a neo-pagan group that has come up with a sort of synthetic "Earth-Religion" drawing on a number of sources including the Amerind mythoi. T-Bow contains a digest of interesting research and historical news, notes on the use of astrology and other systems, and a calendar of upcoming festivals. Also check out their books on building a magickal system.

THUNDERBOW #93: Interesting article by Kahote on changing the belief-set of ritual participants in order to make traditional rituals more powerful. Also features Thomas Lyttle discussing belladonna as part of a continuing series on entheogens and magic.

THUNDERBOW #94: T-Bow goes out on a limb this time with predictions of a major earthquake in Southern California (90% probability by November '86). Lyttle discusses Amanita and there's discussion of a zine THE QUARTERSTAFF that is apparently seeking to be the Jerry Falwell of the neo-pagan world -- anyone know about this?

TOUGH ASS (39 cents postage from mockersatz zrox, 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170-1630): This is a booklet of poems from Todd Moore with illustrations by Kurt Nimmo. It's not for everyone, being both graphic and semi-pornographic. The poems themselves are outspillings of almost pure emotion, words tripping over one another as the poet attempts to finish a thought without losing the impact. Blankly unpunctuated verse that flows straight from the title down the page.

TRANET #38 (\$30/year from PO Box 967, Rangeley, ME 04970): The Transnational Network for Appropriate/Alternative Technologies is still going strong. This is one of the few truly international networking groups around, with as many members in Europe and the Third World as in the US. The basic idea behind Tranet is to put appropriate technology in the hands of those who need it, by providing directories to resources as well as supplying libraries to those who need them. Half-price membership is available for the poverty stricken.

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES Vol. 11 #1 (\$10/year from Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneva 16, Switzerland): An international, privately-funded effort to encourage and investigate ways to make peace a worldwide norm. Each issue contains very well-written scholarly articles, concentrating on actual alternatives and useful policy suggestions as well as on peace research. For example, this issue discusses Max Weber's theories as well as presenting a list of alternative disarmament proposals that have been offered. A good issue to start with; it also contains a ten-year cumulative index.

THE TREASURY MONETARIST April 1985 (\$18/year from Monetary Science Publishing, Box 86, Wickliffe, OH 44092): A newsletter that wants us all to "STOP, LEASH AND MUZZLE THE BANKERS" before the crops fail and the milk goes sour. Lots of stuff directed against the Federal Reserve System, together with an explanation of what to replace it with to bring prosperity to all. I agree that the National Debt is a problem, but either I'm too dumb to follow their further reasoning or it doesn't make much sense.

TREETOP PANORAMA #8 (\$2.85/year from RR 1, Box 160, Payson, IL 62360): A zine from a most unlikely quarter: A self-employed, conservative farmer. Editor Jared Scarborough does an excellent job of sharing his thoughts with us, on farming, politics, and imaginative solutions to the nation's and the world's problems with a conservative, minarchist bent. Shot through with poetry and art, discussing genetic diversity as well as innovative tax plans, this one is an unexpected treasure.

TROUBLED TIMES #4 (80 cents from PO Box 1539, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1539): With anarchy in front and new music in the back, this zine of "ideas and essays" has something for everyone. They discuss deep things like Pornography and Sexual Morality ("War may be menstruation envy") and the failings of hippie capitalists (as bad as any other employer), then get into stuff like an interview with Richard Hell and reviews of records from JFA, SNGU and other strange people. Fun.

THE TRUTH Vol. 7 #12 (\$8/12 issues from Irene Stephenson, PO Box 3893-TRU, Chatsworth, CA 91313-3893): A newsletter of biorhythm analysis. Features biorhythm charts on famous people, and commentary on events in the news. The publisher also offers a variety of analysis services at extra cost, including individual character analyses, biorhythm dating and compatibility analysis for couples.

TWISTED IMBALANCE #5 (50 cents from Art Decco, 209 Syme, Box 3541, NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27607): TI is on the way to becoming the READER'S DIGEST of the underground left, a prospect I view with contentment. Most of this issue consists of things reprinted from other small and sleazy publications such as POPULAR REALITY or SOUTHERN LIFESTYLE. In general these things attack the current society head-on, with some success and much humor. The best piece here is an analysis of the usual organizational problems of the left, excerpted from a source I can't name because Art didn't pay attention to margins. Well, you can't have everything.

UNCLE FESTER #8 (\$1.25 from 2235 France Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55416) Filled with skulls but not a generic hardcore pfanzine -- what generic zine would review Twisted Sister videos (favorably)? Or a review of the "Wrestlemania" event at the Orpheum? Also has more traditional stuff like reviews of fanzines, interviews, and a free "Uncle Fester" sticker. T-shirts and other designs of Uncle Fester stickers are also available -- write for prices.

THE UNICORN Vol. VIII #8 (\$10/year from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A light neo-pagan newsletter from a Mystery School in the frozen north. Herbal notes, I Ching and Tarot columns, poetry, letters and more. The Unicorn staff is also organizing a series of rituals to be held around the country, to raise positive energy for those in need of it.

THE UNICORN Vol. IX #1: The graphics for this zine seem to be improving, with a nice two-column layout giving overplenty of room for drawings which they care enough to print well. All the usual features plus a batch of poetry and letters.

UNZINE #6 (50 cents or 2 stamps from Unclean Records (East), PO Box 725, Sand Springs, OK 74063): Independent music producer Roger Morgan and his associates review other independent music, and they're not nicey-nicey just because they're in the same boat, either. Two points for the slashing of "Meat is Murder". Clearly these guys don't like "whiney-punx". Also reviews other pfanzines, live gigs, and Coca-Cola flavors.

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. 4 #7 (\$3 from PO Box 100787, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310): UO is one of the premier Constitutionalist periodicals in the country, giving a comprehensive but not sensationalistic view of the activities of those trying to limit the Federal government to a saner size. This issue features reports on the liberty amendment and the Federal prison industries, and as always, lots of ads and contact addresses from the Constitutionalist movement.

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. 4 #8: In their Square Peg column this issue, UO features the arguments of Ralph Schwan, who thinks the IRS is a foreign corporation that owes a shitload of taxes to the real government (at least, I think that's what he thinks). Interestingly, they also feature the arguments of Jack Riften, who feels that Schwan is full of beans. It's good to see such an open forum for Constitutionlists of all stripes.

VICTORIAN VAULT Vol. 1 #11 (\$6/6 months from White Knight Productions, Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982): It says on the cover "For the connoisseur of Victorian dolls, long haired little ladies, Music, Art, Music and Photography". What that translates to is mild pedophilia. The pictures come from places like Barbie magazine and Punky Brewster publicity material, and the written contents tend to ramble, hitting on current court cases, sources of cute pictures, and thoughts about slumber parties and the like.

VIEW FROM THE LEDGE 14 (SASE and contribution from Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 57141, Washington, DC 20037): A "celebration of the submainstream", VFTL deals with some very strange people indeed: the guy who had himself mailed to a bank vault to rob it, Bill Murray's "Doesn't Matter" talk from MEATBALLS, the golfer who was beaten with a 7-iron for holding up the game, and many more. Composed of items from the legitimate press, VFTL seeks to remind us just how absurd people and life are. Send Chuck something oddball to include and I'm sure he'll send you an issue in return. Sex with a raccoon?

THE VIEW FROM UNDER (SASE from James, 400 Spencer, Toledo, OH 43609): A mail artist with a repertoire so far consisting mostly of collages, though who knows what will end up in YOUR envelope. House plans, drawings, lyrics and clip art all go into this stuff, which is then xeroxed together into a homogenous mass. A wider range of styles here than you get from most mail artists, but perhaps less of a "message"

MICHAEL VOODOO (SASE to PO Box 57232, Washington, DC 20037): There is no known way to get off of the mailing list of this mail artist, so think carefully before you get on it in the first place. At unpredictable times Voodoo sends out envelopes, decorated with stickers and marking pens, and stuffed with his mail art of the moment. The best things are strange collages xeroxed on colored paper; the worst are probably the articles straight out of HUSTLER magazine, which seem to have a tenuous relation (at best) to the idea of small-scale mail art.

VOX POP 19 (\$8/year from PO Box 8161, Brewster Stn., Bridgeport, CT 06605): Free if you happen to be in Bridgeport at the right time, this is worth checking out even if you're out of town. Local musicians and big names who pass through town, a gossip/news column, review of a Kramer guitar and more. Tears for Fears and UB40 are the big-name bands in this issue, but there are plenty of comers listed also.

WALLS OF GENIUS CATALOG (SASE from PO Box 1093, Boulder, CO 80306): A listing of works by this bizarre band (see FF14). So far they've got about 20 cassettes of crazed humorous musical material available to the unsuspecting public. This would be in the Music section if they'd send us some more review copies.

THE WDC PERIOD #11 (\$1.22 from PO Box 43311-9-311, Washington, DC 20010): Well-packed DC-area pfanzone. The 36 newsprint pages contain more information than I would've beleived, and enough graphics to relieve the monotony. Refreshing nasty review of Live Aid, comix reviews and a day-by-day report on the Government Issue tour set thsi one apart from the rest. Also plenty of reviews and interviews. Check out the articulate interview with the members of Reagan Youth.

WE THE PEOPLE #5 (25 cents in SILVER or \$2 in stamps or postal MO ONLY from 47 Meadow Rd., Westport, MA 02790): This Constitutionalist zine is trying to put their money where their mouth is by encouraging people to buy pre-1964 coins to do business with other patriots. Technical article on whether the US courts are common law or admiralty law, book reviews, and more. Past issues have included information on homesteading your own property to lower possible legal liability. They also sell various cassette tapes for those interested in the somewhat bizarre legal maneuverings undertaken by the Constitutionlists to try and avoid the illegal government of the land.

WE THE PEOPLE #17 (\$3 from Michael Wolff, PO Box 52113, Houston, TX 77052): No relation to the previous zine, this one is an apa "devoted to comment on current social/political events and personal opinion and commentary on events of the day." Unlike the other political apae with which I am familiar, this one has a generally mainstream, liberals-vs-conservatives feel to it. The radicals apparently haven't invaded yet. After 17 issues, WTP is still small and struggling, but it does seem to have a hard core of half a dozen or so interested (and interesting) members.

THE WEST VIRGINIA SURF REPORT Part two, issue 1 (SASE from PO Box 663, Dunbar, WV 25064): Hilarious one-sheeter that looks at the world from the perspective of a UFO-naut who made the mistake of landing in Albania and had his flying-saucer nationalized by dour Maoites. The two big features in this issue are a "College Failure Profile" and a list of ten reliable methods for determining the sex of a baby ("Boy or girl...It has been this way since the world's second child was due (the first time around it was boy or girl or bookends or haddock etc.)).

WHAT'S NEW (SASE from IBP, 1440 Delaware Ave., Lexington, KY 40505): IBP is the International Book Project, a group involved with sending used books off where they can do people good. There are plenty of teachers and social workers in the Third World begging for any sort of reading material, for children and adults alike. IBP provides the addresses and instructions for mailing (or, for those who really need it, the mailing services) and those who can afford it provide the books.

WHOOOPS I'M AN INDIAN #1 (\$1 from 2907-D Violet Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205): This is a pfanzone with something to offend everyone: wrestling stuff, dirty ape cartoons, a parable about religious fanatics, an interview with a record reviewer reviewing record reviewers (how's that again?) and more. The publishers say they're losing money and encourage you to buy one copy and xerox it for your friends; I don't know whether you'd have any friends left afterwards. In sum, it was funny as hell.

WIGGANSNATCH #16 (\$1.25 from PO Box 20061, Seattle, WA98102): Midway in its transition from an anti-serious neo-pagan zine to a daring literary one, WS appears to be in shaky shape. There are stories here, but they're not, in my humble opinion, so hot. The word "pretentious" springs to mind. Editor James Moore is looking for short stories good enough to be printed in the mainstream press but too controversial to appear there. I hope he finds them.

THE WINGED MERCURY MISSIVE #11 (\$5/year from R. Gary Smith, 6020 Piedmont Place, Lynchburg, VA 24502): Most of us network by mail. Gary does it in person, and WMM is the journal of his travels and the people he has met. Concentrating on small-scale positive activists, Gary gives outnearly a hundred contact addresses in each issue, for dowzers, Sufis, Appalachian politics, native American efforts, health events and more. Reading Gary's work always fills me with positive energy and a sense that individuals can indeed make a difference.

WONDERLAND #11 (\$2.50 from David Techter, #25-B, 2520 N. Lincoln, Chicago, IL 60614): Another zine for specialized collectors. This is for those who collect nude and other pictures of young children of both sexes. The whole field is full of postal inspectors and police sting operations these days, and I certainly wouldn't swear that this isn't one of them. It is, however, full of ads and addresses for those with the interest to check them out.

WORKERS' DEMOCRACY #17 (\$1.25 from PO Box 24115, St. Louis, MO 63130): This is a political zine from a group of people who believe it necessary to build a revolutionary socialist political party as the first step towards a socialist future. Their dialogue in the magazine with their readers is dedicated to elucidating the internal structure that this party ought to have. Not knowing precisely how to get there, they consider a wide variety of ideas and present an interesting letter column. Of particular note in this issue are Jeremy Brecher's book review-cum-essay on reconstructing radical politics and the reprint of a leaflet from some revolutionary labor activists in Chile.

WORLD DAY UPDATE (765 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017): World Day is designed to be a more ambitious sort of Live Aid, linking a 24-hour worldwide TV braodcast with a bunch of local festivals. the major thrust of it appears to be to get people involved with any local gropup that cares enough to participate. No mention of how much to send to get on their mailing list, but they are tax-deductible.

WORLD ECONOMIC REVIEW July 1985 (\$45/12 issues frmo PO Box 507, Chalmette, LA 70044): A magazine dedicated to continuing the crusade of Nesta Webster and Emanuel Josephson against the Rockefellers, the CFR, the Trilateral Commission, the Club of Rome, and all those other Conspirators dedicated to destroying the fabric of American life. These are the people you thought Shea and Wilson were making up in ILLUMINATUS! One thing, though --if they want to reveal the startling truth to the public, why are they so expensive?

WORLD TRIBUNE #2526 (\$3/month from 525 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401): This is, I think, the newspaper of the Nichiren Shoshu Buddhists. It's hard to be sure because they write in abbreviations and private vocabulary without bothering to explain what's going on: "do gongyo", "chant daimoku" and a host of other Japanese terms intersperse with organizations such as YWD and NSA which are likewise not explained. Contains about a 50-50 mix of Buddhist teachings and articles on parades and activities.

YELLOW SILK #15 (\$3 from verygraphics, PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): A "Journal of Erotic Arts", this has as a slogan on the table of contents "All presuasions; no brutality". This is definitely erotica rather than pornography. High-contrast b&w photography, drawings, poetry and short stories, all seeking to create a mood or an atmosphere of eroticism, and they generally succeed. No cheap thrills here, just loving, sensual art.

PENNED IN

by Shane Williams

OPTION vs. SOUND CHOICE: Products of Sound Options Network and Audio Evolution Network respectively, both children of the Lost Music Network and OP magazine. Children with a strong family resemblance. Fraternal twins.

So what are the differences? Well, it ain't price, since they're both 12 bucks for 6 issues. And it ain't the fact that they both have glossy covers and newsprint pages. And it ain't the fact that they have both been focusing on letters of the alphabet, at least for the time being. And it ain't the fact that they both try to cover all the same ground that OP did, with all types of networking lists, short features, and loads of reviews.

What I've started to notice is that the editor of SOUND CHOICE is beginning to exhibit the aura of musical superiority that John Foster, the editor of OP, was wont to do. For example, when reviewing OPTION, he remarks "published by a Yuppie for Yuppies". But what really got me was his lead-in for a real good interview with Mykel Board, a punk entrepreneur who is a friendly thorn in the side of the leftist elements in punk. SOUND CHOICE apologizes for a wimpy interview, for not challenging Board more for being the "new breed of entrepreneur, scratching around in the lower echelon of capitalist America..." Well, I think it was incredibly wimpy to apologize to the readership in an effort to establish "political correctness".

On the positive side SOUND CHOICE seems to have a larger letter column, a good sign that debates will go on and outside ideas will get exposure.

All in all I guess OPTION covers more of the artists I consider essential, probably due to it and me both being LA natives.

So in all fairness they both share most positive qualities and achievements, but SOUND CHOICE has distinguished itself by having an obnoxious editor.

OPTION

12 bucks from
Sonic Options Network
PO Box 491034
Los Angeles, CA 90049

SOUND CHOICE

12 bucks from
Audio Evolution Network
PO Box 1251
Ojai, CA 93023

LABEL SPOTLIGHTS:

MYSTIC RECORDS: A much-loved, much-reviled label. This one is run by a guy named Doug Moody. He's been in the record biz forever, I think he inherited a record company from his dad. Anyway he takes young bands, records their stuff at his cost, puts it out and distributes it, and no doubt takes the lion's share of the profits (if any). But the vast majority of the bands he puts on vinyl are extremely grateful, and as a gourmand of music rather than a picky gourmet I dig his amount of product. He's got two compilations out with 40 bands each, compilations on different things, like the one called "Copulation" where everyone sings about LA's finest. And he's constantly giving new bands a chance. He's funny -- just check out his marketing techniques with the Super Seven series: 7" discs with 7 songs on them -- yuk yuk. Doug, we love you. Send more product our way.

FOWL RECORDS: A rare bird. Ha ha. Actually my excuse for saying that is the diversity of sounds in what they've released, which wouldn't be all that strange except that they've only released a handful of stuff. I'm curious about these guys and what makes them tick. Why would a label release both a 60's type protest song called "Give a Damn" and the Fuck-Ups singing, "We think you're shit"?

HARSH REALITY MUSIC: Basically a one-man label, run by the same guy who does MALICE fanzine and fronts the label's major band. But he is also helping distribute a European industrial band and has made available live sets of bands who gigged with his group Skoptzies. Good work Chris, keep it up.

FRESH SOUNDS, INC.: Also a one-man operation. The guy is Bill Ritch and he manages the Micronotz, in fact I would go so far as to say that the label's financial viability rests on the Micronotz. But meanwhile he continues to release vinyl and tapes of local (to Lawrence Kansas) acts and he distributes macabre videos and he books the biggest club in Lawrence. Bill is also famous for Kansas' best fanzine ever, the long-defunct TALK TALK which even had a flexidisc with William Burroughs reading some of his stuff because Burroughs has his home base in Lawrence. Now Bill is a friend of his and Burroughs even wrote some lyrics for the Micronotz.

Labels, send your product: you have nothing to lose but your anonymity!

FORGET CRITICISM, let's just be fans and go ga-ga over how fucking neat music is. Last ish I rattled off a list of fab Aussie band names. This time, as hinted at, I share a list of sentence-length album titles I find inspirational: PLAN 9, "I've Just Killed a Man, I Don't Want To See Any Meat"; KILLDOZER, "Intellectuals Are the Shoeshine Boys of the Ruling Elite"; POISON IDEA, "Record Collectors are Pretentious Assholes"; BIG BOYS, "No Matter How Long the Line is At the Cafeteria, There's Always a Seat"; SUBURBAN MUTILIATION, "The Opera Ain't Over 'Til the Fat Lady Sings"; THE OUTNUMBERED, "Why Are All the Good People Going Crazy"; FVs, "Do We Really Want to Hurt You?"; EDDIE AND THE SUBTITLES, "Dead Drunks Don't Dance"; XPOSEZ, "Force Fed the Truth Drug"; GRAVEN IMAGE, "People in Hell Want Ice Water".

Keep 'em coming, boyz (and gurlz). Oh yeah, all the above LPs are highly recommended for their musical content as well!

B-SIDE (PO Box 166, Broadway, NSW 2007, Australia - \$8 US for 4 issues): The definitive zine on Australian rock of the non-mediocre variety, all kinds of good stuff covered. Like this issue I read an interview with the singer for BEASTS OF BOURBON, Australia's country-punk phenomenon, and found out that Tex Deadly far prefers his other band SALAMANDER JIM and said fukkit and left for Holland to form a new band called FUR BIBLE with GUN CLUB members sans their frontman. Australia has got tons of punk that is closer to 60's garage and Creedence than it is to 80's thrash. A great rag.

BIG YEAH (901 Kimberly Dr. Apt. C, De Kalb, IL 60115 - \$1 ppd.): Put out by one of THE OFFENSE NEWSLETTER's contributors and long-time subscribers this has interviews with De Kalb acts and reviews of all kinds of modern records. They're looking for contributors. Check it out.

BLOODY MESS TAPES (5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): From the editor of various punk zines (like the COMETBUS series all of Bloody's zines bear different titles) and the only guy hardcore enough to get his photo taken of GG Allin after said mental case defecated on stage and applied the product to his own body -- but these tapes are anything but smelly. Over 150 separate listings of live performances, radio interviews and demos by great bands in the metal, horror and hardcore genres. Bloody's deal works like this: you pick out 90 minutes worth of stuff from the various listings and send him 6 bucks and you get the tape. Send him a stamp for this list or 50 cents for his latest zine TWISTED OBSESSIONS.

DEADBEAT (4 Marchall Road, Edinborough EH16HR, SCOTLAND - only 10 pence for a copy so a small IMO for a few bucks and a couple IRCs will get you a bunch of these past or future): A small zine with lots of coverage on Scottish bands that aren't hardcore but aren't U2 either (yeah, I know they're Irish, but I mean not that commercial). Not only does Vinnie do this zine regularly but he also has just put out his 3rd compilation tape so that people not in his locale can hear some of the groups that he writes about. The tape is only 2 pounds. The bands on the tape and in the zine are similar to what one finds in THE OFFENSE NEWSLETTER: melodic, romantic but challenging and original. DEADBEAT also has a musical crossword and not all the bands are Scottish.

EX-PRODIGY CLUB (Elissa Rashkin, 307 Chestnut St., Pacific Grove, CA 93950 - SASE): A small poetry and graphics zine by HAMSTERAMA editor Elissa. Pretty good poetry and when you send for it you can remind her to hurry up with her other zine.

FAMOUS HARDCORE OF PUNKLAND (Craig Hill, PO Box 26684, San Jose, CA 95159 - \$1): Craig agrees with me that porn is cool but he is seriously anti-nuke and has an informative piece to back up his point of view. The rest is good coverage of punk and even a grainy centerfold of Wendy O.

HAMSTERAMA (307 Pacific Grove, CA 93950 -- send stamps): Elissa's double-digit extravaganza, the mere mention of Dostoyevsky on the cover revealing the fact that HAMSTERAMA is not a skate-punk zine. But it is not a boring literary zine either. The hook in this issue is the review of various tourist spots in Monterey. The record reviews cover in greater detail some of the stuff we reviewed last issue but we didn't have a punk rock cat who joined in the reviews. Some of the most readable poetry around, great front and back covers, and an invitation by Elissa to tell her just what can be done, if anything, about things that are fucked up, round out this cool zine.

HIDE #5 (363 Queen St. E., Toronto, Ont. M5A 1T2 CANADA - \$2 MO): Mike reviewed this (FF 15) but I just wanted to add that the bands on this tape, compared to the ones on HIDE's URBAN DECAY tape (see FF 13) are more varied both in sound and origin. Also there is a boy/girl there along with the all-girl bands being featured. Meanwhile the zine itself also features pictures and prose on bands not even on the tape and the art and photos in it are really cool. Great to see so many cool-looking chicks involved in a music project, that includes you ANTI-SCRUNTI FACTION -- ha ha couldn't resist the sexist teasing but you know I mean it anyhow.

HIDING FROM SIXTEEN FRIENDS OF THE COMETBUS (PO Box 4726, Berkeley, CA 94704 - Send stamps): Help Aaron decide what to name some of the upcoming issues (this zine changes titles every time), read about punks in Berkeley, contribute something, read the cereal news (I found out they have a cereal out that tastes like a combination of Golden Grahams, Cocoa Puffs and Lucky Charms -- it's called S'mores Crunch and I can't wait to get out so I can rot my teeth and pad my body with it!) Find out hwy Bo Dylan is the only real punk rocker!

INSANE MUSIC CONTACT (Alain Nefye, 2 Grand Rue, B-6190 Trazegnies, BELGIUM): Send for the Insane catalog. Cheap cassettes of experimental music and other genres. half price to zines and distributors for review or resale.

MORE MAYONNAISE (PO Box 2700, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 - \$6 for 6 issues): This one hasn't been out in a while but it should be soon, maybe the best bet would be to send a few bucks and ask for the last issue and the next. It has a fashion section, small questionnaires for various people on the scene, lots of capsulized pieces on all kinds of Southland music, a few features on international acts, and lots of ads. The last issue has a beautiful color cover of flamboyant Nina Hagen worth the price by itself. Music coverage ranges from pop to punk to anything else other than bands with no original material. Hope the next issue is out soon.

NIGHT EXERCISE (c/o Peter Meyer, Artillerigatan 56, S 114 45 Stockholm, SWEDEN): Peter has a video program -- from what I can tell he takes independent music videos and chops and splices to make 60-minute "films" with his own creative input prominent via a study or theme he makes come alive. I'm not sure I'd want a video of mine so utilized but the concept is interesting and he welcomes correspondence, inquiries and submissions.

NO FRAMES, NO BOUNDARIES (c/o Freddi, 602 Colinnor Ln., Woodland, CA 95695 - send lots of stamps or a few bucks for a couple of issues): Two delectable punkettes put out an extremely entertaining zine with cool drawings, interviews and reviews. Also some addresses of people who want to write to other music aficionados. I like this a lot and hope another one comes out soon.

ONE SOLUTION (187 Neville Park, Toronto, Ont. M4E 3P7, CANADA - \$1.75 Canadian, just send \$2 US or an IMO for the \$1.75): Best Canadian zine as far as hardcore punk goes. Lots of mail interviews but most important for writeups of Toronto and Winnipeg and other nearby bands so that you can find out how to score their tapes and who's more metal as opposed to straight punk. For "fishing punks" as opposed to or in addition to "skate punks".

PUNCTURE (1674 Filbert St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94123 - 9 bucks for 6 issues or \$2 for 1): Covers lots of music with lots of good black and white photos of the bands and people on the scene. Covers all the local varieties of music, and the best art punk and established punk national acts, but distinguishes itself by having a section of art and book reviews. Femme editors and designers. Record reviews. A good looking zine.

RETALIATION CATALOG (12 Bell St., Newsome, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 6NN, UK - Send an IRC): We sent for a zine called HUDDERSFIELD SUCKS, but it being defunct an involved person sent us this catalog with lots of British punk cassettes and vinyl (mainly cassettes) for cheap cheap prices, and a few pages of still available zines. Most of these tapes, some of them compilations with over 20 tracks, are going for only 1 pound. If you've got money to spend on a blind date with punk bands get this catalog.

ROCKBILL (850 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10019 - \$15 per year): Ya know those Salem ads with the music and video info that pop up in magazines? Well, this whole mag is like those and has a big Salem ad as its centerfold. This is quite possibly the most trivial publication I've ever reviews, but it's real slick and glossy and it does cover some alternatives and has nice photos. Too many ads!

SPIN (1965 Broadway, New York, NY 10023 - \$20 for 12): About the size that ROLLING STONE used to be this is Guccione, Jr.'s hobby and all the zine editors who sweat blood to get their rags out hate it on general principle but I think it's worth buying especially if there is a long feature on someone you like. The issue I read told Ike Turner's side of the story, and it sounded like a real achievement just to track him down to get it. Guccione does use a lot of hip writers to do bits, no doubt it's gonna be lammer than the best fanzines but it is better than the other rock magazines except for CREAM, whose sense of humor earns it a lot of points.

TARGET VIDEO (678 S. Van Ness, San Francisco, CA 94110 - send stamps): If you've got a VCR and you like music get this catalog!!!

ULTRAZINE (Damon Cuccia, PO Box 222, Spring Green, WI 53588 - send stamps): A one-man project in that even though he has a few contributors this is indelibly imprinted with his soul due to his drawings and the whole thing being written by hand. All the usual punkzine inclusions, plus a little emoting by Damon - and to all you record labels out there he goes FACTSHEET one better by promising to like and music anyone sends him for review.

VAGUE (Butcombe, Castle St., Mere, Wilts, BA12 6JF - 40 pence & 2 IRCs or the equivalent in IMO): Should be zine of the issue, definitely ten zine of my column. This issue is subtitled "The 20th Century and how to Leave It - Psychic Terrorism Annual". This issue is actually a double issue, so it would be a pound (2 bucks) and the IRCs. It looks like an alternative VOGUE in the sense that it's large with a glossy cover, though perhaps that is just this issue. Included is a lengthy history of the Situationist radicals in British and French uprisings/incidents. Also an even longer feature on Psychic TV -- a cult or a music group or a commune or a multi-media extravaganza. Whatever you call it/them the center is Genesis P. Orridge, also the nexus of Throbbing Gristle, the originator of the term "Industrial" music. And an even longer tour diary of editor Tom Vague's accompaniment of XMAL DEUTSCHLAND on their European dates. And there is a lot more like snippets on Crowley and Burroughs. This is a lot more than a music fanzine but that is the scene from whence it arrives. Tom Vague the editor is also a writer for ZIGZAG, England's answer to the glossy American music monthlies. Send 5 pounds and ask for all the back issues and a subscription for the difference.

THE VERY BEST OF TOUCH AND GO (c/o YOUR FLESH, Box 3107, Minneapolis, MN 55403 - send a few bucks and tell him if there's none left to send you a YOUR FLESH or the forthcoming THE BEST OF BLATCH): Pete Davis is providing one hell of a service to fans, he is helping resurrect some classic zines whose creators were too fucking lazy and/or preoccupied to keep on publishing. TOUCH AND GO was known for trying to offend everyone and having superior musical tastes (coincidentally similar to my own). This "Best of" infuriates me because I used to write for the damn thing when it first came out and nothing I did is included. But this is still way, way cool.

ZIG ZAG (IMO in pounds payable to Pogo Publishing - Subscriptions Offer, Zig Zag, 24 Ray St., London EX1R 3DJ UNITED KINGDOM. 17 pounds a year surface mail, 28 pounds air): Excellent glossy on Brit arcanum with great writing and really a better purchase than any of those music weeklies that I recommended last issue. I guess you could compare this to SPIN except that they've been doing it for years and have a huge catalog of back issues available.

Other zines that I endorse heartily that have either had new issues out since last I reviewed them or that Mike reviewed last time and I want to plug: MATTER, INK DISEASE, SUBURBAN RELAPSE, UNSOUND, OPTION, FLIPSIDE, MY WIFE, NEW NUMBER TWO, JET LAG, THE OFFENSE, SOUND CHOICE, TERMINAL, JERSEY BEAT, PIG PAPER, DER MODERNE TIMES and probably more that I'm forgetting -- check out the last couple of FACTSHEETS for ordering info on these.



MUSICAL ERRATA: This is where I correct mistakes, most commonly ones made cuz I can't print legibly and Mike misses the names of shit, also any factual mistakes, and maybe even judgement calls about St. Gunderloy's tin ear. Honestly folks, when he reviews your records you're getting a totally unbiased opinion. I admit to my prejudices, but as long as he prints it I'll be the first to say that I liked the FADE TO BLACK LP he panned as too droning (FF 15). Actually it's romantic stuff with a seductive vocalist and a couple real good tunes out of the 5. Also if you look at his review of the Mystic stuff the group he calls "just good music" I call wimp city. It ain't bad, but it pales next to the thrash metalcore rock of both MANIFEST DESTINY and all the bands on the Mystic SUPER SEVEN SAMPLER.

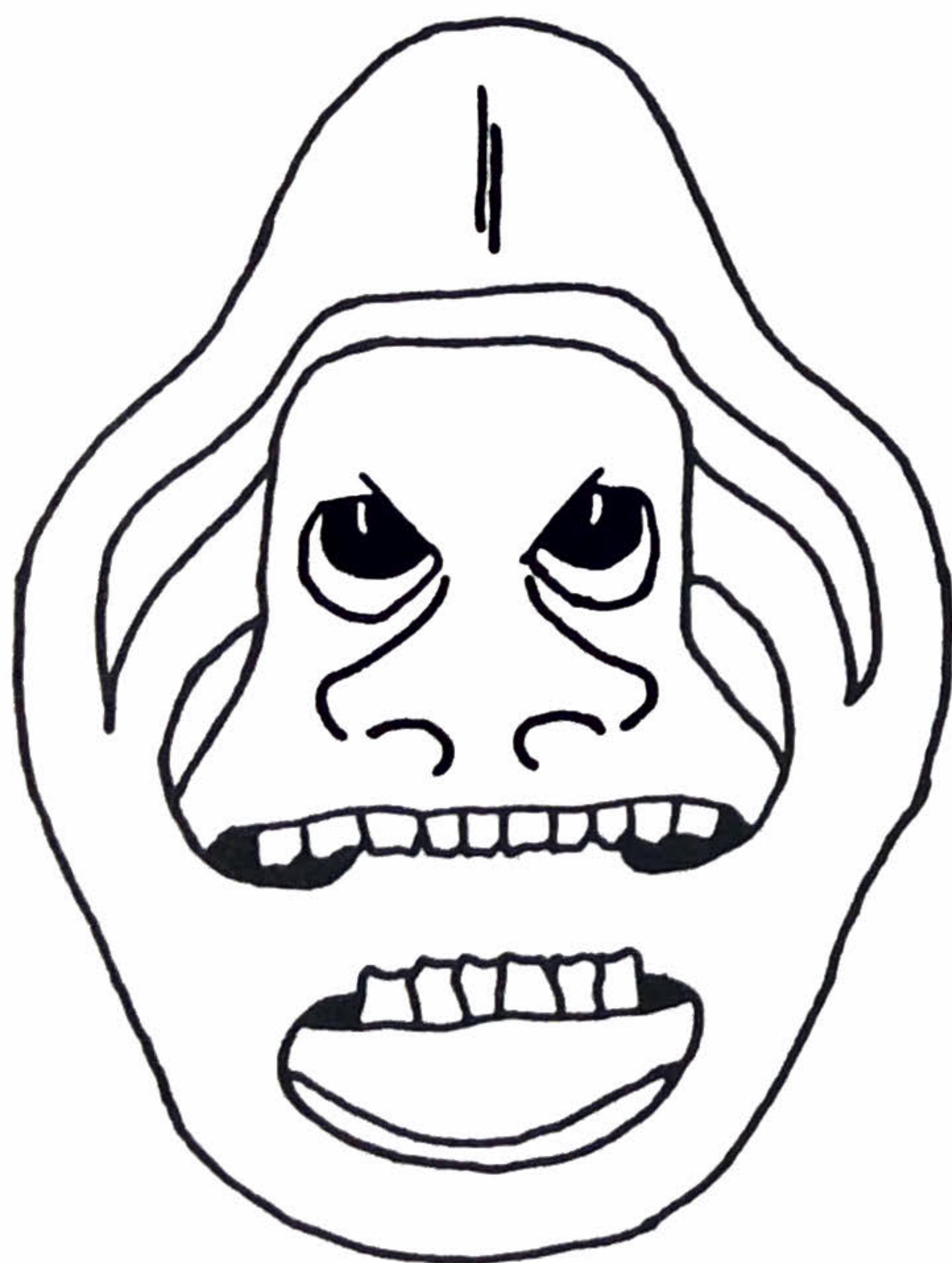
True erratum: It is "Sisters of Mercy" not "Sisters of No Mercy" -- I think "Sisters of No Mercy" might be a SubGenius group but the English gothic rockers I compared favorably to EXECUTIVE SLACKS have mercy.

It is also "Scraping Foetus Off The Wheel", not "...Off The Wall". Believe it or not this same guy also calls himself Foetus Art Terrorism and Foetus On Your Breath -- guess he's obsessed with young stuff.

If my opening statements in the review I did of FORCED EXPOSURE (FF 15) seem unintelligible I was trying to say that I know my writing ain't shit, but by putting it more formally I lost the meaning.

I was also wrong commenting that the lyrics to the POISON GIRLS LP are radical, at least if you took that to mean politically so. Mainly they're personal and ironic except for one feminist anthem.

Other group names: Celibate Rifles, not Celibate Rifler and Radio Birdman not Radio Birdmen.



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poetry

by Rick Soos

ALLY (\$4 from 234 High St. #6, Santa Cruz, CA 95060) edited by Joseph Drucker. Aside from the cover, this is built more like an anthology than a magazine. High quality paper and binding. The poetry is normal fare, with an emphasis on the surreal. My favorite writer in this issue is BZ Niditch: "the mixed days/when Chopin still laughed/inside me". Also poems by Norton Marcus, Lynn Lifshin, Ivan Arguelles and about 25 others. 100 pages.

CHARLES DARWIN AND THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION (\$2 from Black Oak Press, Box 4663, Lincoln, NE 68504) by James Magorian. A story chapbook, well done. Based upon some of the experimental French writers of early in the century, Magorian manages to include some of their favorite imagery in his story (leeches, judges, stolen jewels, Galapagos, prison, etc.) Satirical, with several belly laughs. From the man who has brought us over 25 books in the last few decades, including the classic Night Shift At the Poetry Factory.

BOSTON REVIEW (\$3 from 33 Harrison Ave., 7th Floor, Boston, MA 02111) edited by Matthew Gilbert. Newspaper format. The July '85 issue has an interesting interview with John Cage. If the reader finds an artist's work obscure: "That's your problem. You're interested in other things. All the questions you ask come from an education which has been conventional. You've been asked to believe in guilt, competition, the desire for the best, and finally you have to go buy insurance and do your level best to save yourself from disaster." Also included is poetry from South Africa (very heavyhanded) and an article by John Loftus on Intelligence Activities and American History. Interesting stuff. "It may not be hyperbolic to suggest that one third of modern American history is classified [information]."

BOGG 53 (\$3 from 422 N. Cleveland St., Arlington, VA 22201) edited by John Elsberg. BOGG is best known for its use of British writers along with Americans. This particular issue is 100% American. The poems mostly are awful. Unfortunately, this mag is 85% poetry. The article by Patrick Lally on his magazine THIRD EYE is very interesting. "Not being a social person, editing is my contribution and my bridge to a world I care deeply about." The interview between Ron Androla and Todd Moore is great reading. "Scientists experiment; poets take chances, take great risks." The review section is varied and by several people. Oh, but the awful poetry. Turns a decent mag into File 13.

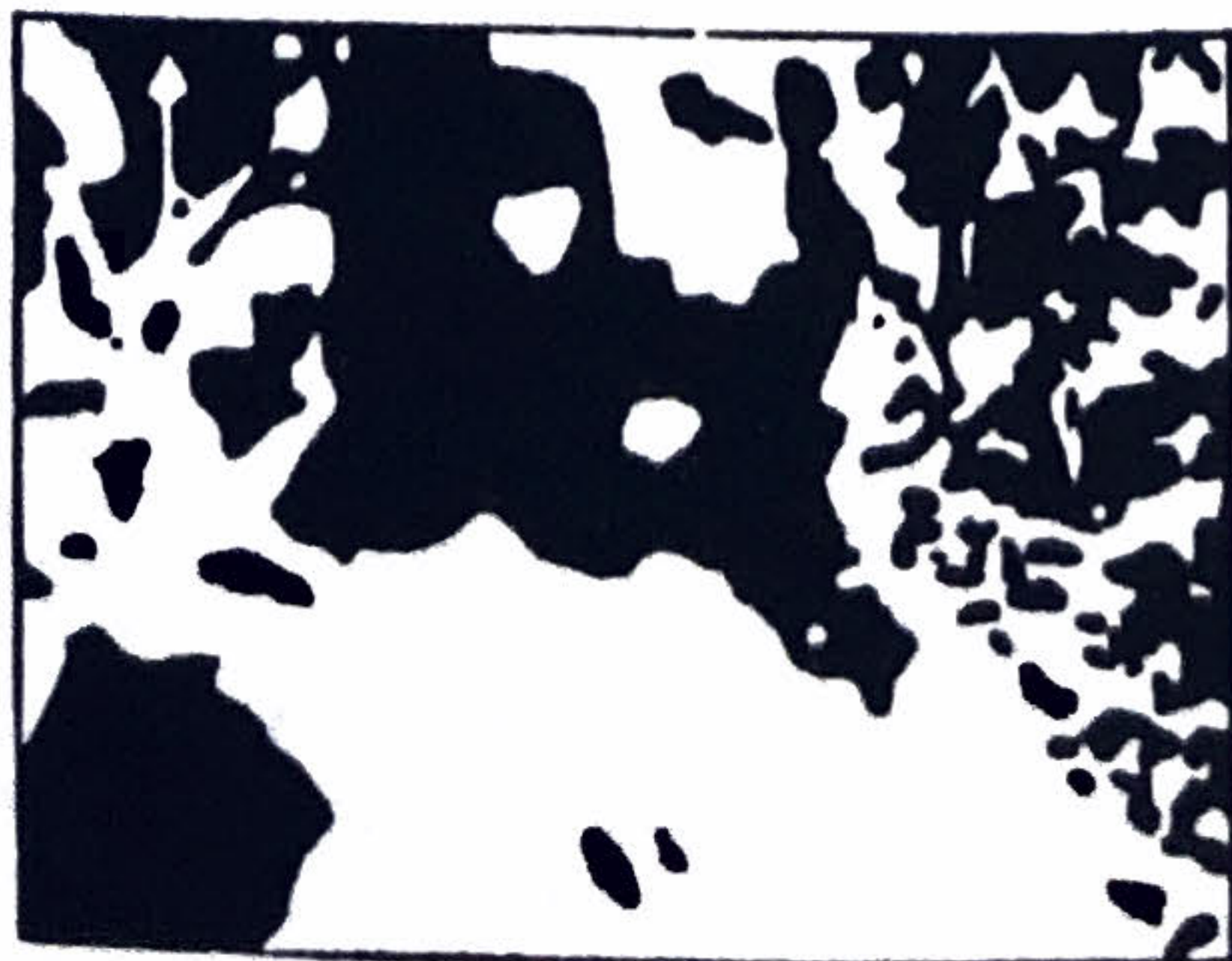
ANOTHER FUCKIN REVIEW 2 (\$1 from 1631 Walbollen St., Spring Valley, CA 92077) edited by Mike Hemmingson. A lot of shallow poems in this xerox mag. The extra issue (detroit review) is better only because there is one good poem that elicited a laugh from me by Kim Mitchell, "the small press". She pulls out all the punches and gives everyone a good knock across the ego (including myself). The rest is normal self-indulgence. The Detroit issue includes a chapbook by Tammy Anderson.

THREE CHAPS by Mike Hemmingson:

MINIATURE ORGIES (road/house: SASE from AFR address above). Diary entries. No insights, just observations. What do you want for nothing?

BLACK/RED LEATHER (diamond house: \$1 from AFR). More diary entries, a few sexual fantasy type. Bukowski dreamer actually.

NOWHERE IS SAFE (samisdat: \$1 from AFR). This one is the best of any I've read by Hemmingson. He has made me both think and nod in agreement. The work is on a socio-political level rather than his usual fantasy trips. The long poem (A Living Graveyard) doesn't work well at all, but The Secret, Activists and the title poem are all fine. If you beg, I'm sure Mike will send you all 3 of these little books for \$1.00.



GAZE AT THIS PHOTOGRAPH

If you see the face
of Christ, you may
possess unusual occult
and Spiritual insights!

NOTES OF A NEON GRINGO

by Kerry Wendell Thornley

SIGN UP FOR YOUR LUNATIC FRINGE BENEFITS HERE: Donations to the Spare Change Investment Corporation, a nonprofitable organization, have in the past, regardless of size, been rewarded with subscriptions of indeterminate, more or less infinite, duration. Since it costs about \$130.00 to print and mail out a single issue, I'm going to have to change that policy just to keep postal fees from driving me to the poorhouse. (After all, with my personality it is already a task to keep out of the nut house.)

So, henceforth, subscriptions to SPARE CHANGE will be exorbitant: \$1 per issue. (Send \$5 and you get a 5-issue subscription, send \$23 and you get the next 23 issues, etc.)

[Note: Kerry may be reached at Wall-Op, 2981 Lookout Place, Atlanta, GA 30305. -- MG]



Monday in the pub: Harriet Treadwell was tending bar a moment ago. She got away before I could speak to her. Last I heard she was involved in promoting a reincarnation cult with one of the Jims -- Garrison or Carter or both, I guess.



It rained today so I didn't work. The landlady never has collected the rent. I hope she isn't dead and rotting in her room -- like that guy a couple of weeks ago. That rooming house is morbid enough as it is. Casper and Cowley Mortuary -- where I lived and worked when I was at U.S.C. -- was more cheerful.



My landlady -- who has more nerve than sense -- wanted to charge me \$10 extra because she was too ill to collect the rent until today. I think it was just a conspiracy to get me out of there -- the assholes. She yelled at me ridiculously when I couldn't see her reasoning. I think that's a symptom of a World-Wide Church of God agent: that yelling. Their whole organization seems to believe loudness and obnoxiousness is the best substitute there is for being convincing.

They also hired Susan Roberts who was called my "tongue". They are called my "tongue" and also a "screen". As far as I can figure out they are a conspiracy of rich people who are against racial and sexual prejudice -- for the rich. The poor they don't give a damn about. Since most people in what are called racial minorities (although they comprise what is actually a vast majority of this world's population) are poor, their anti-racism is simply hypocritical slumming. Their attitude is also always that I am there for them to use. It helps them evade the war crimes issue and the land monopoly issue, I guess.

They are very much in favor of landlordism, as I understand things -- like being against anti-semitism in Nazi Germany -- and in favor of I.G. Farben at the same time. Every time I denounce them in my writings I'm also persecuted for it afterwards. So they think and act like the Gestapo or the KGB when it comes to dealing with criticism.

In my experience behaviour like that has always amounted to a confession of intellectual poverty. When people are in a position to argue intelligently for their views they aren't driven to resort to tactics of harassment.

At one point they complained that since they were co-operating with the Communist Party, although they themselves are very authoritarian rightists, CBS and the Eagles shouldn't expose them, as they were at one point in plain language with a police investigation and television news follow-up.

Fascists always co-operate with the Communist Party. That's what's wrong with Bolshevism to begin with: it is a cover for Fascist harassment and murder of anarchists, democratic socialists, syndicalists and Trotskyites -- of all revolutionaries who cannot be duped into serving Fascism. How could there otherwise have been a Kronstadt massacre or a Hitler-Stalin Pact or a Huntsville-Havana Pact? That these rich oil majors and their partners in the crimes of monopolism are co-operating with the Communist Party is nothing new.



MUSIC

8TH ROUTE ARMY, "Daily Beat" (PO Box 461, Easthampton, MA 01027): The title song is mild rock, a message about the daily beating down of the individual by society, and sounds like a litany of teenage complaints. Unfortunately the complaints are not explored in depth and no solutions are offered, so it comes off as pretty whiney. The flipside, "No Leaders", is sort of a 60's anthem of pop nihilism, and comes off much better: "So make your own rules/Don't be a clone". The verdict: wait for the LP. (45) (MG)

GG ALLIN & THE SCUMFUCS, Demo EP (PO Box 54, Hookset, NH): Allin does his best to offend everyone, and this is a good (and mercifully short) example of how he does it. The chief method is the repeated use of every swear word in the language, coupled with nasty topics like the glorification of rape. The lousy sound quality doesn't help his reputation any either. Let's just hope he runs out of the money to finance this self-indulgence, soon. (EP) (MG)

ANTI_SCRUNTI FACTION, "A Sure Fuck" (\$2.50, Unclean Records, PO Box 725 Sand Springs, OK 74063): Previously known to me by their cut on the first FLIPSIDE vinyl compilation in which they juxtapose their song "Big Women" to the G.B.H. song of the same title, with the resounding finale, a shouted "If G.B.H. don't like it they can fuck each other!" Then I saw the mini-interview in the new HIDE zine, which accompanies a cassette on which ASF appear (See FF15), where the girls told the world how they hate guys and slutty chicks that like guys and how they want to cut dicks off, etc. Now I have the pleasure of telling you that ASF's vinyl is indeed "way rad" and they rock hard enough to have the boys they despise thrashing their brains out when they play. Can you believe these radical punk feminists are from Boulder Colorado? The mind boggles. As a pro-slut male I'd like to go down on them as bad as they want to cut my dick off. Tit for tat, no pun intended. (EP) (SW)

ASBESTOS ROCKPYLE, "Police State" (\$3 from Warpt Records West, PO Box 8045, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8045): This group is headed by an Irish emigre who kicked off AR in Maryland and is now out in California at Santa Cruz carrying on. Not only do they have numerous releases but they've also put out a cool compilation titled GODFODDER that we'll review next issue. This single has a song that sounds like early Clash (before they got pukey) with a guitar bit where it gets that Gaelic bagpipy sound -- that might be Scottish but I guess that traditional Irish folk is similar. It's kind of a neat effect. The other song is a very effective minimalist diatribe on police hate. From what I've read AR keeps up with the latest developments and does lots of topical songs that take jibes at current phenomena like John Lydon wanting to be called Johnny Rotten again and Henry Rollins hyping 7-11 stores in SPIN magazine. Better keep abreast via the AR offerings. I'm impressed. (45) (SW)

BANDS ON THE BLOCK compilation (Matako Mazuri Records, PO Box 4084, Austin, TX 78765): What appears to be 17 bands from Texas. The first side has a lot of garage or psychedelic type bands -- in other words similar sounds to the GARAGE SALE tape (see FF14). My fave on that side is the cut by WILD SEEDS, who also have some vinyl of their own out. Side 2 begins with a great death metal instrumental from NAPALM and winds up with a wild song called "Personality" by THE JEFFERSONS (?!). One of the standout cuts on side 2 is by a group that received only lukewarm reviews here for their EP (see FF15). This cut by NOT FOR SALE is called "Collar Bondage" and it's a way catchy tune about being tied to a job and its uniform as in white collar and tie. The only really annoying cut on the whole compilation is by a band called PEZ doing a timely little number "Where's the beef" that makes as much of a mockery out of them as it does of their subject matter, Reagan and America. All in all I recommend this to anyone who likes compilations -- and I don't understand why critics bitch about reviewing them. (LP) (SW)

BEAT HAPPENING, "Three Tea Breakfast" (\$3.50 from K., PO Box 7154, Olympia, WA 98507): I read that this is produced by Greg Sage, the WIPERS powerhouse. Well, this is anything but powerful, it's toomellowly minimal, too sketchy. Nothing really happens. But I've seen it compared to supercult faves THE SHAGOS (three girls who don't know how to play, playing aggressive folk rock). (tape) (SW)

BLUDGEON, "Bludgeon You": A flexidisc enclosed in the latest issue of the impressive YOUR FLESH zine (see FF 15). Since it's probably unavailable I'll keep this short and just say it's an example of the death metal sound and, while not the best of its genre I've heard, blows away all the gloom metal and MOR metal by a mile. (flexi) (SW)

BILLY BRAGG, "Life's A Riot Etc" (\$6 & \$2.50 s&h per order from CD Presents, 1230 Grant Ave. #531, San Francisco, CA 94133): Billy Bragg is one of the latest English singers to become a critical darling in America, and it's easy to see why. His stuff combines the minimal simplicity of folk music -- the whole record is simply his vocals and guitar work -- with the themes of modern punk alienation and opposition to the powers-that-be (although, of course, that was in folk music as well). Particularly powerful on this record are "World Turned Upside Down", a song of the Digger Movement in 17th-Century England, and "To Have and Have Not", with the chorus "Just because you're going forwards/Doesn't mean I'm going backwards". With a touch of genius, expensive production and loud noises aren't needed to make good music. (LP) (MG)

CRISRAIL PRESENTS, "The Game of Music" (Fang Records, c/o Patrick Rael, 804 Dryden St., Silver Spring, MD): Crisrail is Chris Rael, and he does all the music on an impressive 6-song EP. The lyrics are worth reading, very elusive meanings. The chorus to one song "... 'cause it don't say nothing in a teardrop" is not belittling the emotional release of tears, but exactly what it does mean is like asking a painter what he means by his art. Tis is progressive, arty music, but there are cryptic political undertones too. Not my favorite kind of tunes as interest is sacrificed to subtlety. Chris has his own address on the lyric sheet listed as "Musician for Sale" -- maybe what he really wants to do is get in a band? (EP) (SW)

CROSSRODE, self-titled (Amethyst Records, PO Box 210282, Columbia, SC 29221): Good old Southern boys playing good old Southern music -- think of the Allman Brothers and you'll get the idea. Musically there are no surprises here, just mellow slide & rhythm guitar interspersed with the occasional vocal. The whole thing needs to be tightened up a bit -- the instrumental breaks are just too long and monotonous. (LP) (MG)

CYRNAI, "Charred Blossoms" (\$3 from Mind Matter Records, PO Box 421304, San Francisco, CA 94142): Packaged with a 48-page booklet of stream-of-consciousness writings, this EP attempts to be the musical equivalent of ingesting Dangerous Drugs. The music for the most part seeks to escape categorization: most of the cuts feature synth and electronic percussion, tape loops and distorted vocals, and special effects of various sorts. The exception is the closing "Windmill", composed of acoustic piano music mixed with street conversation. An exercise in non-linear thinking and listening. (EP) (MG)

DANNY AND DUSTY, "The Lost Weekend" (A&M Records, 3395 NE Expressway, Atlanta, GA 30341): D&D are sort of a modern day supergroup, featuring members of Dream Syndicate, Green on Red and The Long Ryders. Apparently a few of the band members got together in Hollywood and decided to make a record in a weekend. They come out sounding like a bar band, but it's a damned good bar band, playing good old rock and roll rather than punk or New Wave or any of that stuff. Best cut: "Song for the Dreamers", a tribute to all who have tried (and sometimes won), featuring stunning keyboards by Chris Cacavas of Green on Red. Runner-up: the cover of Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door", which beats the shit out of Heaven's new version. (tape) (MG)

THE DEAD MILKMEN, "Big Lizard in My Backyard" (Fever/Enigma Records, PO Box 2428, El Segundo, CA 90245): Fantastic Comedy Punk. Doesn't sound as hardcore as LA bands like THE DESCENDENTS and ANGRY SAMOANS who put out early examples of the genre. Nor as poppy-hooky as THE DICKIES who, along with THE RAMONES, practically define fun or "funny" punk. But regardless of where you stick 'em sound-wise DEAD MILKMEN have some of the most consistently hilarious lyrics. One of my fave tunes concept/lyric wise is "Right Wing Pigeons From Outer Space" which attributes the title status to lame types like Bonzo Raygun. And the spoken intro to "Bitchin' Camaro" is a real hoot, parodying metalhead teens while leading inexorably and inscrutably up to the send-up "car" song. These guys just came off a national tour, hope you caught 'em. Write the band direct at Box 58152, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1852 for free newsletter and to buy their 3 cassette releases. And don't miss this record getting well-deserved national distribution. (LP) (SW)

FADED GLORY, "Death Zone" (\$2 from PO Box 6057, Winston-Salem, NC 27109): I just noticed that 4 of these guys are 13 or 14 and 2 are 20 or 21 -- interesting. They seven songs have almost as much distance between them. This is very experimental loosely-structured but intense punk. A couple of cuts are instrumental stretch-outs -- one cut is a neat version of "Wild Thing". The opening cut is almost industrial, titled "Blood Ice Cream". I assume this band makes it up to DC to gig -- if not, they ought to. By the way it's a 13-year-old who writes most of the songs. (tape) (SW)

FUCK-UPS, "FU 82" (Fowl Records, PO Box 1821, San Francisco, CA 94101): A relative oldie by a primitive punk outfit on Fowl. The FUCK-UPS are into being Sid Vicious. They probably shoot heroin and the works, not that that makes them bad guys or even bad musicians, since a lot of musicians have done their best work when strung out. Miles Davis and Eric Clapton are two examples off the top of my head. But these guys aren't the best musicians so if it wasn't for the vocals setting the mood of "1,2,Fuck You" so well this disc would fail. But it pretty much succeeds and is a sterling example of "bad-boy" punk. Believe it or not these guys are supposedly friendly with MDC, the ultra-leftist altruist hardcore band who are lyrically plain opposites from the FUCK-UPS. (EP) (SW)

GRAND MAL, "Binge/Purge" (Fountain of Youth Records or write GM at 1824 Lamont St. NW, Washington, DC 20010): Out of DC comes another group that is not anything like the legendary MINOR THREAT and the straight edge thrash bands that followed in their wake. Yep, DC always was diverse musically, more so now than ever it seems. The best cut here is called "Fever Dream" with a hypnotic throb of jungle fever anchoring it. The title cut is a nice statement on polarity or something. Or I say Yeah! (LP) (SW)

GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS, "Destroyer of Fun" (PO Box 528200, Chicago, IL 60652): Not my cup of tea. Nondescript music with vocals out front singing lyrics that are catchy but dumb. Not fun-dumb like DEAD MILKMEN but dumb like "Having fun is dumb". I guess these guys are sincere and the B-side is a little better. (45) (SW)

HEIMAT-LOS, "Schlag" (20 francs, but for US throw in a few bucks or IRCs for postage, from New Wave, B.p. No. 6, 75462 Paris Cedex 10, FRANCE): Hardcore punk from Germany, with some English lyrics and titles. Some stuff at thrash tempo, some stuff with germanic melodies incorporated -- possibly an intentional thrashing of an anthem? Good stuff, write 'em care of their label. Lots of good stuff is coming out of Germany these days, as you can tell by reading SCHMOCK fanzine. (EP) (SW)

ILL REPUTE, "Halloween Live" (Mystic Records, 6277 Selma Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028): Not as potent as their studio recordings, but a great record for someone who has a hard time picturing the ambience of a hardcore punk gig. Their song "Stop and Think" is an anti-fighting song that tries to convince the kids not to beat up everybody that doesn't look just like them. Too bad that kind of song is even necessary. Mediocre version of "Monster Mash", great version of Neal Diamond's "Cherry Cherry". The rest are original. (EP) (SW)

KONSTRUKTIVISTS, "Psyko-Genetika 2" (\$5 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Experimental electronic music, made up of layers and layers of syntehsizer tracks. Could be the backdrop for a science-fiction movie stranger than Forbidden Planet. Could be the intro to a very strange rock musical. Could be hazardous to your health if you're easily hypnotized. Definitely is a wonderful musical experience. I like to listen to this at full blast in parking lots and draw funny looks from people. (tape) (MG)

THE LEAD, self-titled (c/o Julio Rey, 10811 SW 67 Dr., Miami, FL 33173): Music with a message, and the Biblical quotes on the lyric sheet make it fairly obvious what the message is. However, the record is salvaged by the powerfully driving rock and the vocals of Nina Llopis, who shares singing chores with Julio -- he's mostly just a screamer, but she has real talent. As for the subject matter, there are 3 pro-Christian-punk songs and one anti-abortion number. The lamest is "Question Authority", which just sort of whimpers along; the best of the lot is "It's Thru You", where the delivery and music are pleasant even for the die-hard agnostic. (EP) (MG)

LEGIONAIRE'S DISEASE, "Placebo World" (Fowl Records, PO Box 1821, San Francisco, CA 94101): What appears to be a release of relatively old stuff from one of Texas' first punk bands who probably saw the SEX PISTOLS play there in '78 and were never the same. This is raw, not-too-fast punk, some of the earliest that could be dubbed hardcore. Maybe this band is still together and these were recorded more recently than I think, one can't tell from reading the promo material or anything else. Even FLIPSIDE seemed surprised by the surfacing of this disc. The best thing on Fowl by my reckoning. (EP) (SW)

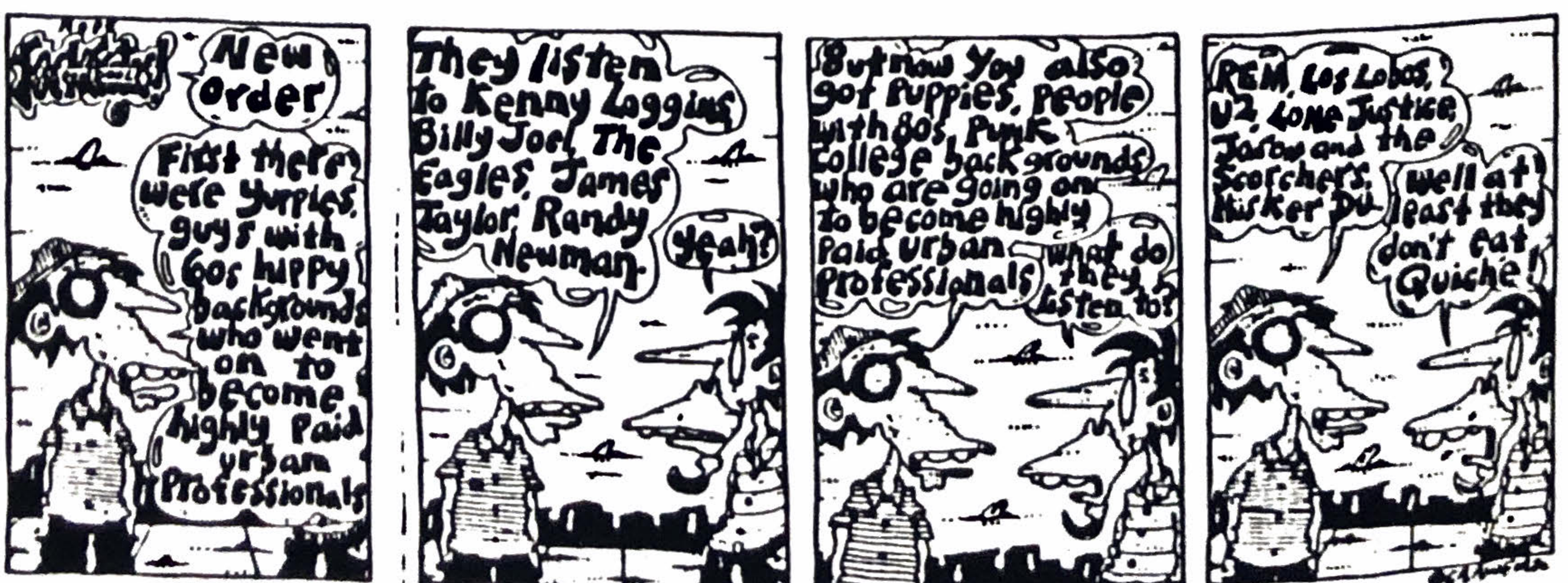
MAGGOT SANDWICH, "Dead to My World" (\$4 from Kaos Music Ltd., PO Box 9391, Pensacola, FL 32513): Hardcore rock from Florida. The first 7 songs on this tape are from their forthcoming EP, the rest were recorded live. Unfortunately the live recordings are uniformly muddy, leaving only a vague impression of good times and loud music. The studio stuff, though, is exuberant and amusing, as well as being decent hardcore. With songs like "Bigot", "You're a Bum" and "media Lies", you can be pretty sure these guys will never be the next R.E.M., and I'm sure they're very happy about that. (tape) (MG)

MINIMAL MAN, "Safari" (\$6 & 2.50 s&h for entire order from CD Presents, 1230 Grant Ave. #531, San Francisco, CA 94133): This one slides across genres in what I'd call an experimental way except that Patrick Miller, the brains of the outfit, insists that it's only "a cruel joke". Be that as it may, this arty, tight rock has overtones of horror punk in many songs (lots of minor-key stuff reminding one of late-night movies), near-industrial noise in others ("All the Answers"). Overall it's addictive music, particularly the haunting final cut, "Ascension" ("Dance to keep from crying/Dance to keep from lying") with its underlying message of futility. (LP) (MG)

MUSICAL SUICIDE, "March for Notoriety" (Jakki Repellent/M.S., 301 N. Cooper Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45215): I'm not sure if this is out on vinyl yet but for sure you can get it on tape if you write Jakki, the group's super attractive bassist. This is even better stuff than their debut LP "Big Fish in a Little Sea". Cincinnati's premier punk outfit for sure, with punchy stabbing bass and scuzzy-fuzzy guitar and rock-steady drumming. I like it and so will you. (EP) (SW)

PAWS, self-titled (Parachute Records, 2306 Sherwood St., Greensboro, NC 27403): This one is straight percussion. David and Dennis Licht sit around and hit things with their paws until they fill up a record. The basic beat is pretty African-influenced, but they bring in a few new percussive instruments: there's definitely a police whistle on one cut, and I'm almost sure it was a rubber duck on another. The main problem with this stuff is that I spent the whole record waiting for the guitar line to come in. But it makes good background for typing reviews! (LP) (MG)

BOB PITTMAN, "The Wanderer" (Fowl Records, PO Box 1821, San Francisco, CA 94101): Progressive Rock. Plenty of melody. I guess new wave vocals. I wish I had a wider palette of descriptive terms for stuff that doesn't particularly excite me, but I guess the most accurate thing I could say is that this still beats 95% of anything on AOR radio. (45) (SW)



RAT PACK, self-titled (Mystic Records, 6277 Selma Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028): More "Nardcore" -- 'Nard being Oxnard, or in other words a generic term for everything 50-100 miles north of LA. In other words Nardcore can mean bands from Santa Barbara, Ventura County, even Simi -- er, Slimey -- Valley. Well, RAT PACK have one of the best Anti-Reagan songs I've heard in a while (with a great catchy hook, "4 more years of Reagan"), also some pretty good guitar. I'd say they edge out MANIFEST DESTINY but bow to RKL as far as hardcore studio stuff from Mystic goes. (EP) (SW)

R.K.L., "It's a Beautiful Feeling" (Mystic Records, 6277 Selma Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028): Their full name is "Rich Kids on LSD". This is my hardcore pick hit of the issue. The base is snotty thrash, the frosting on the cake is great frantic metal lead guitar. A lot of the bands on the Mystic label, and throughout the world, are marrying lead guitar to hardcore. RKL do it better than most, without sacrificing any of the energy or vocal sincerity or MINOR THREAT, to name probably the most acclaimed thrash band of all time just to give you an idea of how much I like these guys. Cool meaningful lyrics, punk anti-poetry at its best. One I can really identify with is "Locked up" with the lyric "I've fucked authority right in the ass/Now authority's gonna fuck me right back". Also an anti-hard dope song, RKL being more or less part of the straight edge scene in Oxnard. (EP) (SW)

SKATE DEATH, "You Break It - You Buy It" (\$7 cash/MO from Bullhead, c/o Warning, PO Box 102993, Anchorage, AK 99510): Well, I might just have to move to Alaska. Not only did I just read that they have nary a toxic waste site in sight, but they have a healthy punk scene with a recent outpouring of bands, zines, and even cable video programming 5 nights a week. Most of this is related to the people who put out WARNING fanzine, reviewed several times in these pages. Their scene is tight knit with promo material on everything being centrally distributed. So now to the music of SKATE DEATH. They're definitely hardcore, some of the songs reminiscent of TALES OF TERROR (see FF15), specifically "I Think I'm Elvis" which can certainly be juxtaposed with TOT's "Over Elvis Worship". Yep, these guys thrash along in a merry way and while they're not a joke band like fellow Anchorageites THE CLYNG-ONZ, the lyrics are all fun in the punk nihilistic sense of the RAMONES - ANGRY SAMOANS axis. These guys play good solid hardcore. Oh yeah the skate thing is real big there, thus the inclusion in the title. They do some snow skating stuff that looks real daredevilish from the photos I've seen, so when they're not rocking at night the scene has a common hobby for both teens and elderly 20-30 year old types. Buy this, send for WARNING and the NU-ARTIST COMIX, or else just move up there and watch the BOMB SHELTER videos on their CATCH-22 cable channel. Yeah!!! (LP) (SW)

SKOPTZIES, "Working My Hand Thru the Wheel" (\$5 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): This is the first live release from the group that claims to be "Tennessee's most experimental & diverse band". Their mix of guitars, percussion, synthesizer and vocals is by turns industrial, funky, powerful and arty. Surprisingly, much of this stuff works well on a live tape, without the painstaking assembly that can be used on studio music. A couple of these cuts -- "Elvis Was My Friend" stands out -- could even garner some airplay on not-too-daring rock stations. A good look at the edge for people who don't want to get too close to it. (tape) (MG)

A STATE OF MIND, "What's the Difference? Animal/Humyn Exploitation" (\$1.50 from Mind Matter Records, PO Box 421304, San Francisco, CA 94142): Emanating out of a commune or in modern day lingo a squat in the Bay Area is this piece of anti-music messagery. It's not anti-music in the sense of an industrial band trying to be pure noise, but it's anti-music because the rock n roll aspect of this release is far far overshadowed by the strenuous presentation of various messages. At least when English bands do this sort of thing the sound is grungy enough (like CRASS) to stand up as being punk rock regardless of being preachy. And certain bands like SUBHUMANS or ZOUNDS manage to thrash hotly or seduce jangly (respectively) while presenting much the same views on the exploitation of womyn [sic] and animals (not ynimals?). No, I'm afraid the half-hearted punk and the other songs with the folk strumming that would be just as appropriate for a religious group just aren't rock. But I'm sure all the people involved are "good" people and that anyone out there more concerned with humanitarian issues would be advised to contact them for their literature, if not for their records. (EP) (SW)

THEATRE OF ICE, "A Cool Dark Place to Die" (\$5 from 6950 Pasture Rd., Fallon, NV 89406): Another excellent cornucopia of horror sounds. Morbid and sometimes simplistic lyrics are easily outweighed by the incredibly effective spooky ambience. The only thing I miss is the couple of almost punk tracks on their last tape (see FF 15). This is the group issuing from the Nevada farmland. This tape was recorded in a haunted house, and on their third outing Brent and John have definitely mastered the recording process, though all of their releases have been professional in sound and packaging. Get this and play it on your doorstep on Halloween next year. Get this and scare yourself. Includes a nifty illustrated lyric booklet. (tape) (SW)

THROWING MUSES, self-titled (c/o Ken Goes, PO Box 9515, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747): This band has matured and changed (with Leslie Langston replacing Elaine Adamedes on bass) since we last reviewed them (see FF 15). Having moved from Rhode Island to Boston, they've started what may well be a meteoric rise to stardom. The backbone of TM is Kristin Hersh's lead vocals, ranging from upper-register pure melody to her trademark gravelly near-yells -- I hope this voice survives for many years to come! The music itself is hard to classify, ranging from upbeat near-country on "Sinkhole" to extremely complex haunting rock, with Kristin and Tanya Donnelly cutting in and out of each other's vocal lines. Drummer David Narcizo keeps the songs moving quickly along, never staying with one riff for more than a few seconds before wandering off the experiment with some other backing. Langston's reggae-influenced bass also contributes to the musical eclecticism here. With an average age of only 19, TM has got a head start on fame. The tape is mainly for promo use, but they were selling copies for \$5 at the fantastic gig at the Rat last month, so I'd suggest you write to Ken and beg him to sell you a copy. My pick hit of the issue. (tape) (MG)

THE TRUTH, "E.P. #1" (Video-Studios Inc., PO Box 2544, Baton Rouge, LA 70824): Good time party boys I guess, but not intense enough to get played at my parties. To me the only cut I can really say made me want to dance was the rockabilly type "Let Go" with extremely minimal lyrics which they point to recursively by saying "More is less - less is more". But more or less this whole thing is just OK. (EP) (SW)

TWISTED VALUE, "Take it For Granted" (\$2.50 cash/MO from 564 E. State Rd., Coldwater, MI 49036): Small-town hardcore, you've got to give these guys credit for trying. If I was passing through I'd want to crash at their pad or let 'em open up the gig. It's not an earth-shattering record but it's decent punk and their attitudes appeal to my lyrically and in the way they promote themselves. They've gone against the grain locally and have been ignored nationally, be nice guys and drop 'em a line, and if you live anywhere nearby in Michigan get 'em to play your party. Look for a larger more current release when they can afford it. Support struggling punk bands! (EP) (SW)

VARIANT CAUSE, self-titled (KDT Records, PO Box 85781, Seattle, WA 98145-1781): "Complete Details" is a polished, plastic piece of punk, over-produced and under-written, the audio equivalent of marshmallow fluff. The flip side, "Marathon Man" is somewhat better, being light and poppy with nicely harmonizing vocals. Still, I wouldn't go out looking for this. (45) (MG)

VOODOO IDOLS, "Temptation" (Veedee Records, 3907 Sevilla Ave., Tampa, FL 33629): Hard-driving guitar & saxophone rock'n'roll with what seems to be a heavy DOORS influence, or perhaps it's just the malarial climate. Johnny Yen's vocals weave in and out of Merlo's sax and the two guitars, singing of nasty things you wouldn't particularly care to have in your life. One of the most powerful songs here is "Taboo", a retrospective journey into hell but not back, ending in a mental hospital. Another is "Don't Call Me Back", an almost-rap song based on one side of a deadly phone conversation. As long as the Florida swamps keep producing this sort of music, draining them would be a crime. (EP) (MG)

WIRE TRAIN, "Between Two Words" (415 Records, PO Box 14563, San Francisco, CA 94114): This is sincere, melodic, ultra-light rock. The problem is that most of it is sincerely dull, up until the last two cuts on the B side. "Two Person" is a sort of surreal love song, suddenly waking the listener up by going into a faster, louder beat than what has come before and offering lyrics that are designed to confuse. Then, with the listener reeling, the band goes into "Home", a sad song with lyrics that might be an allegory for the music industry itself: "Every day there'll be people searching/For the land where their dreams have gone". This might pick up some late-night college airplay, but that's about all. (LP) (MG)

FEEDBACK

I really liked you WHY PUBLISH? section and just had to get in on it -- even if belatedly. I started PopReal as a means to find and communicate with like (?) minded folks...I love the mail I get. I print 2000 every two months....1800 go to stores and distributors....Each issue costs about \$200 to print and mail. After 1 1/2 years the operation is half paying for itself. Web set printing of tabloids is a deal. Some rural printers, like the weekly shoppers and newspapers, will do 2000 copies of an 8-pager for under \$120....I always get a few subscriptions from mentions in Factsheet Five. The last review was much kinder than previous ones, so I'm anxious to see if there's a greater response.

-- David Crowbar Nestle

/* I didn't know that web-offset was quite THAT cheap! I may have to investigate switching to a different medium some day. I'm glad that FF is helping you out and happy that you appreciated the last review, but just let me note that I don't really think of my reviews as "kind" or "unkind". I try to be honest, within the limits of space allowed. Often this means that I must paint a picture of a zine with broader strokes than I would like. */

Thanks for the review [of THE GENTLE ANARCHIST] in Factsheet Five....Although we are trying to organize an anarchist community, I will NOT be dropping out of society and pursuing my own bliss. Hopefully we will be able to continue our printing and agitation for a better social disorder, and we will continue to cooperate with other anarchists as each person sees fit.

-- Some Anarchists in Lawrence

/* I think the anarchist movement needs all types -- both those who want to drop out and live life and those who want to stay and organize. I think I emphasized your dropout stuff because it's refreshing to see a group that doesn't condemn anarchists having some fun. Anyhow, keep up the good work, within existing and future societies. */

Your Factsheet Five has certainly grown into a very vital NETWORKING magazine. Thanks for doing it. You do it well, with integrity. I wish it would be YOU (for some reason I trust you) who would come out with a "FREEDOM Networking Magazine". Maybe with xeroxable address labels of those reviewed.

-- name withheld by request

/* Gee, thanks for the egoboo. I like to think I'm already covering a lot of Freedom mags in FF. From time to time I think of trying to sort out the reviews by category, if anyone wants to comment on the idea. Another publication simply isn't in the cards at the moment. As for the address labels, I may soon be in a position to offer preprinted labels with the addresses of all the publications on my mailing list -- would anyone be interested? */

The job you are doing in listing so many of these small publications is tremendously important because it is through these little magazines and non-establishment publishing endeavors that the truth finally filters through.

Let us never forget that some of our greatest writers, Sinclair Lewis, Upton Sinclair, Zane Grey - could not get their earlier writings published by the Establishment press and had to pay to get their own works into print and before the public.

But it is much more than mere publishing - there is a big problem of distribution. Very few public and college libraries will buy these small magazines or other publications because most of their purchasing is done through library suppliers such as the W.R. Grace Co. library outlet.

What is in fact taking place is that a severe censorship occurs in these Establishment library supply houses and they very carefully see to it that anything controversial is excluded so as not to offend the generic mish-mush middle class reading mentality - which lies somewhere between third and fourth grade.

-- Garry De Young

/* From time to time I think about trying to tackle the distribution problem myself, probably with some scheme to insure that subscription money gets refunded from those pubs that fold. I suspect that financial instability is one big reason why the distribution houses aren't more involved with small mags. Any of the librarians in the audience care to comment? */

I spent a large part of today reading FF and was extremely impressed, it's better than I thought it would be. It's certainly opened my eyes to the fact that there's lots of organized undergrounds beyond punk. It made me feel good to see all the alternatives...I'm not sure I understand the fascination for SF, kinda like I don't understand the Death Rock thing either.

--Lois from NO WORRIES

Curiosity moves me to ask what you look for in a one-pager like mine -- do you want eloquence, junior-high-humor, good cartoons, or what? (Not that I would change SPEW to fit guidelines, but I would like to know).

-- Bob Konshak

How do I get MY zine in "Publisher's Showcase"???

-- too many people to list

/* I think there are two major things I look for in a zine: a worthwhile concept and good execution of that concept. Almost any concept can be ruined by lousy printing or proofreading, while a slick zine dealing with nose lint (or, some would say, fanzine reviews) isn't worth much either. I certainly don't want to prescribe some sort of mold that any given zine must fit into to meet my approval. That's why I discontinued calling the front section the "Best" zines -- there are far too many good things to pick a best. If the editor is enjoying what he does, it generally shows through, and makes me more likely to enjoy it too. */

I've no complaints about the reviews you've given me, much more about category definitions but these are minor really. After all one would be pretty disappointed to read a magazine full of reviews that those being reviewed all approved of. Dead boring. As long as people keep criticising you you know you're doing something right, you're provoking them....

By the way I don't like the idea of you dropping the Five, Factsheet Five sounds much better than Factsheet. So what if it confuses a few people, they ought to catch on eventually. There's no point in doing small press if you're going to sink to the lowest common denominator.

-- Karen Eliot from SMILE

I don't know what the hell "Factsheet Five" means, but it sounds cool. If you're taking votes, I say keep it.

-- Rough Rider

Although I disagree with some of your politics, and find some of your reviews stupid and distant, I feel that F.F.5 can have nothing but a positive effect, because it concentrates on opening up lines of communication. Thank you for your efforts.

-- Chuck Morse from JIS

/* Such praise, I blush. */

Question: Why do all neopagan magazines have such goopy, bearded-man-blond-woman-with-unicorn graphics??

-- Denver Tucson

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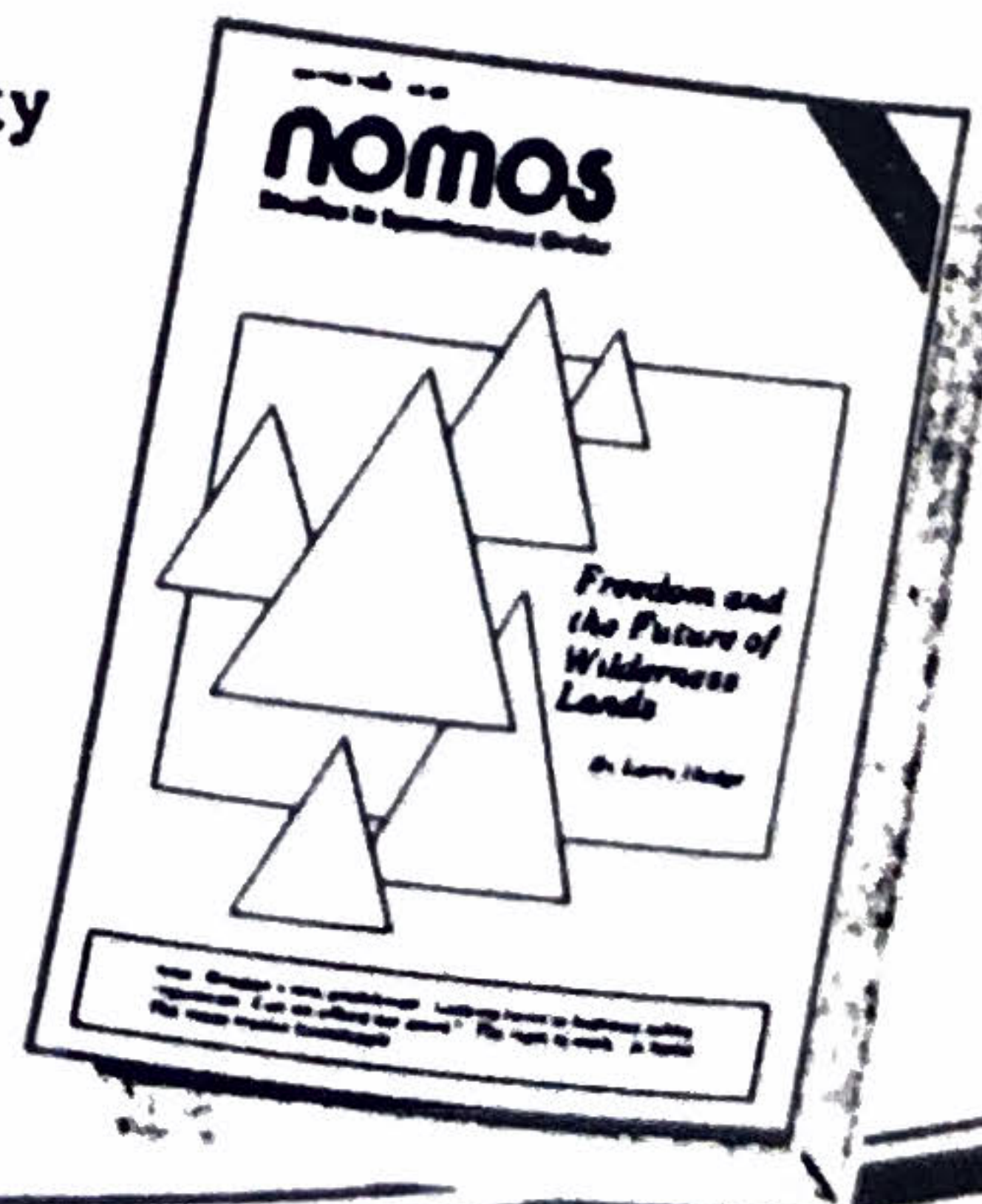
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I think your little zine is great and I read it from cover to cover and order as much from it as I can weasel out of people without having to pay anything.

--Mykel Board

I am writing a fairly long, indepth article on fanzines -- underground literature from a subculture that wants and needs to be heard. I would appreciate it if you would mention this fact to some of the fanzine editors you correspond with. The more fanzines I get to peruse, the more complete the article will be. I am writing the piece for a major slick. I know it sounds kind of sleazy -- writing for a trade -- but it'll give some of the independents a good bit of exposure.

--Narat, PO Box 39188,
Friendship Stn, WDC, 20016

I hope your comment that "Even if the masses can't be free, I can and intend to be" was either an EMOTIONAL reaction or a poor, loose choice of words...for can you see how close it comes to "As long as I'm doing okay, fuck everyone else!"?

...Those who fail to take advantage of the polls increase the other guy's chances by default, which is partly how Reagan got re-elected. The pro-Reaganites were encouraged, while the Anti-Reaganites were demoralized, and if a man refuses to lift his weapon, he's lost.

-- Dave Szurek

/* There is some question in my mind as to whether you can do anything to help other people be free beyond providing a good example. Certainly you can't FORCE them to be free. I wouldn't do anything to prevent anyone else from searching for their own freedom, but I don't feel compelled to support them in an unfree system either.

As for voting, Walter Mondale was certainly not my man any more than Reagan was. Voting these days is like being given a choice between slitting your wrists and jumping off a cliff. Better to ignore the whole game and hope it goes away (as it will if enough people opt out). */

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BOOKS

Richard A, BOOK (\$1 & 4 stamps from Moscow Graffiti Publications, PO Box 16002, Arlington, VA 22215): Richard (or, as the NY TIMES would have it, Mr. A) is a political maverick who happens to be a posterist. This book -- 155 pages -- is a collection of his previous material (some of which is available from him for an SASE), together with extensive notes and underpinnings.

BOOK is basically a political tome, attempting to define by example what is reasonable for a government (or commonwealth, as he refers to it) to do and what is not. Richard gives short shrift to many groups, particularly those he refers to as libertarian conservatives: "It seems the conservatives don't care so much about saving money as they do about maintaining a class system: the smart libertarian right wingers vs. the lazy liberal deadbeat losers. Maybe they have been watching too many football games."

This doesn't mean, though, that he supports the Marxist wing of the political spectrum either: "Work and productivity are essential, but they don't make one into a god....The Marxist religion of work-worship ignores this." In fact, as much as he supports anything, it's the current democratic republic welfare state (yes, he has good things to say about welfare statism).

Despite these unpopular (at least among us radicals) political views, A has some interesting things to say. His discussion of profits as what the market will bear rather than as the minimum to encourage entrepreneurship is thought-provoking. His ideas on Michael Jackson and entertainment have a decidedly Situationist flavor. The scheme for a new method of representative democracy, while probably too cumbersome to work, likewise shows originality. In short, there will be things here you haven't thought of, and that's one of the main reasons to read, isn't it?

Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous, ADVENTURES IN SUBVERSION (\$2 from PO Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440): This is a collection of posters and flyers put out by a batch of crazies in Eugene over the past four years. They rank among the nation's foremost (but sometimes least-accessible) posterists, and this collection is an awesome display of their skills at detournement (the Situationist term for the re-use of society's images to poke fun at that society).

Anything that keeps people in line is fair game for AAA: AT&T, Santa Claus, automation, even words: "It's no longer possible to ignore the connection between keeping words in place and people kept in their places: libraries, classrooms, factories, churches, prisons, museums, shops, offices and armies." Their typical poster -- if any of these may be demeaned by calling it "typical" consists of a single graphic, often stolen blatantly from some advertisement, captioned with a nicely-typeset selection of large words conveying some subversive message. The basic, bottom-line message is perhaps that we've all had enough of modern organization and it's time to go back to basics. Or perhaps not.

In any case, some of these posters are real classics. "The Enchantment of Nuclear Destruction" is a stirring indictment of everything ("When the apocalypse is always present, the present is always apocalyptic.") The detourned Sperry-Univac and AT&T ads are much better than the "real thing". Even the technophile may laugh at the contents of this book, not realizing what insidious seeds of discontent it is planting in his mind.

The only losers here are the few posters concerned mainly with local politics, which don't travel well to the surrounding world. But they're a small part of the whole, and don't detract from the overall effect.

Hakim Bey, CHAOS: THE BROADSHEETS OF ONTOLOGICAL ANARCHISM (\$5 from Brett Rutherford, 47 Bonn Pl., Weehawken, NJ 07087): The publisher tags this as "Certain to rank as one of the most flagrant offenses against order and dignity we have every published", and since they normally publish poets, I'd say they're right. Bey is nothing more or less than an ideological terrorist, dedicated to giving everyone a hard time and assaulting the boundaries of our nice neat orderly worlds until they dissolve into shards of colored glass. This is the dark side of Discordianism, the serious side of the SubGenius.

Central to Bey's epistemology are the dual concepts of Poetic Terrorism and Art Sabotage. To understand the distinction, turn to page 21: "To seize TV transmission & broadcast a few pirated minutes of incendiary Chaote art would constitute a feat of PT -- but simply to blow up the transmission tower would be perfectly adequate Art Sabotage." If I understand him aright, Bey proposes Poetic Terrorism as acts designed to shake people out of their complacency, while Art Sabotage strives to remove the institutions that encourage that complacency.

The rest of the book seems vaguely connected to this central pairing, though in some cases the connection is very tenuous, the artifact of the original medium of samizdat posterism for these cahpters. Bey does not come right out and present any alternatives; instead, he speaks in parables, in images, and in poetry. The writing is powerful and perceptive: "if it's mumbojumbo you want go for the real stuff, banking, politics, social science -- not that weak blavatskian crap."

This is a book that will be treasured by the real malcontents everywhere and condemned by the "serious" anarchists as being diversionary crap, for it has no respect for nothing, not even their pretensions towards building a better world. I think of it as a poetic companion for NEUTRON GUN (see FF 15). Buy it.

Bob Black, THE ABOLITION OF WORK (\$1.25 from Donna Kossy, Out-of-Kontrol Data Korporation, 55 Sutter St. #487, San Francisco, CA 94104): Many of you will remember Bob thanks to his targeting for elimination by the PROCESSED WORLD crew. Those with longer memories will recall the Last International, Bob's posterist project, one of the outstanding examples of the genre. Now Bob is back on top with this indictment of the system under which we live.

Whether it's "from each according to his abilities" or "the Puritan ethic", all political systems in the world today rest solidly on a foundation of work, which Bob defines as "forced labor" (whether one is forced by a paycheck or a commissar is immaterial indeed). In the first part of this essay, Bob looks at all the negative effects of this fascination with work: the industrial pollution, the thievery of our time, and the warping of impressionable minds, among others. These are hardly new concerns: it was Adam Smith who pointed out "The man whose life is spent in performing a few simple operations...has no occasion to exert his understanding....He generally becomes as stupid and ignorant as it is possible for a human creature to become."

Where Bob differs from earlier critics of work is in his insistence that it should be, and can be, abolished in the modern world. By pointing out the immense uselessness of much current work, and combining it with Charles Fourier's vision of manifold crafts and games in the place of work and the Situationists' demand for full unemployment, he makes a convincing case. Even if one remains unconvinced that the world could be organized so as to let us all play and still get things done, it becomes obvious that the 40-hour week is an anachronism, perpetuated to keep us all under control.

This is an important book (I almost said "an important work"). I think everyone who cares to think ought to read it. In fact, for FF readers I'll make this deal: buy yourself a copy of THE ABOLITION OF WORK. Read it. If you think it's full of shit, or find it dull instead of thought-provoking, mail it to me, along with some notes as to your complaints, and I'll add a copy of FF to your subscription. Even counting postage costs, you'll come out ahead if you don't like it. I don't really think I'm risking much.

Walt & Peter Franklin, THE GLASS ALSO RISES (Great Elm Press, RD2, Box 37, Rexville, NY 14877): A small collection of fiction by Peter and poems by Walt, all loosely related to the world that revolves around social drinking. It does well as a unifying topic, but because of the tone of this world, the whole book is rather downbeat.

The fiction is short stuff, slice-of-life vignettes. Several of the stories focus on single drinkers, but I prefer the ones investigating the social ties of the drinking world, particularly "Grasshopper Bluff", which manages to pack several plot surprises in two pages.

The poems are mostly blank verse, a tough form to make effective, or at least most of them have little effect on me. But there are the occasional shining exceptions. "Dew Drop In" views the trucker as the modern Odysseus, an intriguing comparison; "Quagmire Beer" nicely captures the reverse snobbery that leads some people to drink and defend horsepiss.

All in all, this is a nice idea, executed without a lot of flash, and coming off better than either straight fiction or straight poetry would have done.

E. X. Boozhie, THE OUTLAW'S BIBLE (\$12.95 from Circle-A Publishers, 8608 E. Hubbell, Dept. 15Q, Scottsdale, AZ 85257): We've all heard of "jailhouse lawyers". Now you can hear from one. E. X. is currently doing time in the Arizona State Pen, but he hasn't been idle. Instead he's been poring through the law library, checking case citations and summarizing his conclusions for the benefit of others who might someday run afoul of the criminal "justice" system.

THE OUTLAW'S BIBLE is a layman's guide to the Constitutional rights that are most important in keeping the authorities from apprehending us: the Fourth (search & seizure) and Fifth (self-incrimination) Amendments. If you can use these to your advantage, the author claims, you can keep the police out of your hair by making it nearly impossible for them to collect evidence that will stand up in court.

After a brief look at the principal players in the legal drama, E. X. discusses in detail the Fourth and Fifth Amendments. Under the Fourth, he covers warrants and the exceptions to them, special cases such as personal search, auto searches and home searches, an seizure of belongings. The discussion of the Fifth includes the Miranda Warnings, legal confidentiality (including the times when your lawyer CAN talk to the cops), and the sad facts of grand jury law. The final part of the book looks at the ways cops can break the rules and get away with it, the special case of airport narcotics checks, and finally a set of "Ten Commandments" for saying out of trouble.

Perhaps because of his current lifestyle, E. X. has no illusions about the system. Even knowing all your rights won't keep you out of prison. You might well do a couple of years before your case is overturned on appeal if the evidence was illegally seized. But a better understanding of your rights could make the difference between two years and twenty. And being careful about what you do and where you do it can help keep you out of the courts entirely.

By the nature of our system, our rights are always changing. At the moment the Exclusionary Rule and the Miranda Warnings (both, incidentally, discussed in this work) are under attack by the courts. The ephemeral nature of the subject may explain why there is no other book covering this subject on the market today. THE OUTLAW'S BIBLE fills the gap nicely. The writing is clear and crisp, the footnotes cite the applicable case law, and the research is exhaustive within the area covered. (One could wish for some words on speedy trials, or double jeopardy, but perhaps there will be a Volume Two to look forward to). I certainly learned a lot from this book, which means it fulfilled its purpose. If you're doing anything illegal (and who isn't?), this is a fine investment in the future.

((Incidentally, there is one other book that deserves mention as a good source of rights information for the layman: DRUG LAWS AND THE RIGHTS THE PROTECT YOU, by Kenneth Weiss & David Kurland (Fireside tpb 1980), but this is a specialized and somewhat outdated work that is definitely a companion to rather than a substitute for THE OUTLAW'S BIBLE.))



C. Cameron, THE MEDICINE WHEEL; RITUALS AND ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS; THE UNMANIFEST DIMENSION (\$10 for all 3 from PO Box 140038, Coral Gables, FL 33114): These are the continuation of the Magic Systems series, which I first reviewed in FF15 [you can get all six books for \$15]. These books continue the job those 3 books started, the construction of a new reality to make magick possible.

THE MEDICINE WHEEL begins to systematize the magickal skills which the initiate should have started picking up. Similar to the Kabala, but simpler, the Medicine Wheel is an Amerind way of associating various things (animals, colors, activities) with each other and with the basic pulsebeat of Nature as demonstrated by the day, month and year cycles of astronomical time. By providing a framework for investigating the world, such a system can help us understand more about it. After describing the basics of the Medicine Wheel teachings, Cameron gives exercises, involving one's spirit guide, to learn more.

RITUALS AND ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS is the sketchiest book of the series, owing to the huge amount of material to be covered. It outlines briefly nearly all of the known means for entering an ASC: fasting, meditation, ritual, koans, wu-wei, psychotropic drugs (not recommended) and more. A few suggestions are given, but for the student this book will mostly give an idea of what avenues of escape may be worth investigating.

THE UNMANIFEST DIMENSION is a capstone for the entire system, a point beyond which words cannot take us. In it, Cameron sketches out the ideas behind rituals of possession and communication. No firm rules are given. Rather, the student is presented with a method for developing his own rituals. As a sort of appendix, Cameron slips back into a rationalist frame of mind to present a "Psychological Model of Magic".

Overall, I'm favorably impressed by this series. It's refreshingly free from both dogma and memorization, the two greatest hurdles (at least for me) to getting involved with most systems. If there is a drawback here, it is that the prospective magician must drive himself, rather than depending on outside assignments and a structured heirarchy of masters and initiates. Certainly Cameron's method is more likely to result in a magic one can be personally happy with.

Butch Cavendish, HOW TO CHEAT ON COLLEGE EXAMS...AND GET AWAY WITH IT (\$4.95 & \$3 s&h from Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368): In some ways this is the quintessential Loompanics book (though perhaps not so much as GUERILLA CAPITALISM, reviewed in FF15): it's outside the bounds of polite society. It promises a lot. And unfortunately, it's more puffery than delivery.

HOW TO CHEAT... is a cute idea, blown up to 42 pages by including sections on such things as the moral considerations of cheating and the current rise of cheating in society. Cavendish covers both hardware (cheat sheet) and software (the current crop of "Beat the SAT" courses) methods of cheating, as well as mentioning the instructors' counterattack. His information seems for the most part correct, though occasionally far-fetched (using a memory calculator to cheat on a non-mathematical exam?). The problem is that anyone who makes it to college, where these things are most important to know, isn't going to learn anything new here.

Save your \$5. Or spend it on a beer for the instructor. Better yet, buy the damned textbook and study. But don't bother with this one.

Yael Ruth Dragwyla, QABALLAH AND TAROT: A BASIC COURSE (\$25 from PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): The price is a bit higher than most of the items I review here, but I think it's still well worth mentioning. This is a book-length set of xeroxed course notes, just like you'd get in school, but dealing with subjects that you won't find in the usual college catalog. Yael, in her guise as Magistra Polaris, discourses knowledgeably on both Tarot cards and the Hebrew mystical system of the Qaballah (aka Cabala), along with their manifold connections, both ancient and modern.

Being course notes, things are organized logically here, starting out quietly enough with a historical overview of the subject and a list of places to look for more information. Then the cards of the Tarot and the Sephira of the Qaballah are considered individually and together, showing how they form a system, or rather series of systems, for exploring the universe. After this the wild things start. There's a section on the mathematics of the Tarot, drawing on modern algebraic theory, followed by thoughts on the application of these systems to other things, both esoteric and exoteric, from Magick to heredity. Finally imagination is let loose, with a consideration of ways to

modify the Tarot and Qaballah for extraterrestrial use or in reference to the digital computer.

The good Magus shows an excellent knowledge of her field, and a broad range of outside ideas to draw on. Too much of what's been written on these subjects is frozen in the Middle Ages or before, but these notes are vibrant and up to the minute. Some of the speculations, for example those on Tarot and the genetic code, may appear quaint in a few more years, but the method of reasoning will remain fresh. If you're thinking of getting into esoteric subjects, this is a challenging place to start.

These notes are also available with cassette accompaniment, either for the course as a whole or on a lesson-by-lesson basis.

Yael Ruth Dragwyla, NEW MAGICKS FOR A NEW AGE (\$25 from PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): In a way this is a companion to the work described above, more ambitious in scope but somewhat less detailed in execution. The "New Age" referred to is the Aeon of Horus, which Yael dates to the 1904 invocation of Aiwass by Aleister Crowley. This book is an attempt to revise and expand the series of correspondences between days, hours, planets and the like into a system that truly meshes with the New Aeon.

Yael opens the book with a prospectus setting forth the basic rationale behind everything, and then starts discussing the astronomy behind the correspondences. A knowledge of astrology would be useful but not essential here; some knowledge of ceremonial magick is probably essential. Starting from a few basic principles, she derives the "rulers" of the hours of the day and night, as well as the days of the week.

Next the system is extended to the Tarot and Qabalah, tying into the previous work. A quick dip into the use of these dignities in astrology and magick, followed by some thoughts on Gematria, follow. The remainder of the work is devoted to a defense of the explanatory sections, all beautifully tied together and well-footnoted.

I suspect the primary appeal of this book will be for the magician who wants a system that he or she can truly understand and memorize on a basis other than sheer rote. It can be viewed as a refinement of the empirically-discovered relations known to earlier Aeons and mages, a refinement done in light of our increased exoteric knowledge of the physical world. However one looks at it, it works as a system for tying things together, whether for magickal or mundane purposes. It could, for example, form the basis of an excellent mnemonic system.

By the way, Yael has much available besides magickal tomes. Publisher of BVI-PACIFICA (see the Zines section), she has also put together a whole bunch of short stories and poetry, quite interesting, and available at reasonable prices in xerox editions. A few of these items were reviewed in FF14; more will be in FF17. I just got fascinated by the magickal stuff this quarter.

Dave Reissig, THE HITHER AND THE YON (\$1 from Hitheryon House, PO Box 452, Syracuse, NY 13201): This is another collection of Dave's thoughts on life, the universe, and sex, composed in part of letters to the editor (one of his favorite forms of expression). In the midst of the book, Dave explains himself: "One way to perform a valuable service is to say things that need to be said, but that no one else is saying. That's partly my motivation."

The things Dave is saying range from inscrutable one-liners ("I still haven't met my third wife yet. Or my second.") to Orphan Bill stories (See FF14 for a review of THE ORPHAN BILL STORIES) to mini-essays on things like the difference between jazz and rock.

Dave's style is entertaining, particularly when (as in this book) he isn't straining to appear too deep. (Or perhaps some of his other books really are too deep and it's too much of a strain for me -- I don't care for Kant either). He looks at the world from a somewhat different platform than the rest of us habitually use, and perhaps he's seeing things we're missing. In any case, there are a lot of things in the Hitheryon House series that will either make you laugh or force you to think, or both.

Tim Ryan, with Rae Jappinen, THE WHOLE AGAIN RESOURCE GUIDE (\$12.95 from Capra Press, PO Box 2068, Santa Barbara, CA 93120): This annual trade paperback puts FACTSHEET FIVE to shame as a networking resource in its chosen field; fortunately, that field is on the periphery of mine, so we function as compliments rather than competitors.

WHOLE AGAIN is a guide to periodicals, sourcebooks, bibliographies and other networking resources in what might be roughly called "New Age" areas. Some of the major subject headings are: Animals, Birth, Conservation,

Feminist, Holistic Health, Mindwork, Public Interest and SPiritual Growth; there are 36 categories in all. Within these categories the WHOLE AGAIN staff reviews more than 1500 publications.

The reviews are brief (roughly the size of FF reviews) with address, ordering, and format information featured prominently at the start of each item. They use as many words as they need to identify the strengths of each particular publication, differentiating them from others in the same group. By having one person on the staff review the pubs for each major heading, WHOLE AGAIN achieves excellent coverage of the fine differences within each field.

The entire book is tied together with excellent indices, including a useful one that indicates publications missing since the last edition. A very useful guide for anyone interested in any of these subjects, and any publication that I review which has an interest in "wholeness in person and planet" should write them for the forms needed to get their zine listed in the next edition.

Erwin S. (Filthy Pierre) Strauss, THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTIONS (\$4.95 & \$3 s&h from Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368): Filthy has been going to conventions for a long time, and this book systemizes his observations of the fannish culture in an easy to read, and, more importantly, fanspeak-free form. As such, it is the ideal introduction to SF conventions, and through them, to "fandom" itself.

The book starts out by giving a general overview of conventions, then takes the reader along with Filthy to a typical con. He describes the various sub-genres of conventions, devotes many pages to describing the varied activities of fen at these cons, and provides suggestions for the foolhardy soul who actually wishes to run one of these things. To wrap it all up, there's a list of references, including ones which will help you find out about upcoming cons.

Fandom is an interesting thing. To be thrown directly into its midst with no preparation can be quite a shock. I certainly could have used a book like this seven years ago, when I went to my first con. Maybe then I wouldn't have missed out on nearly so much of the fun.

Ian Watson, THE BOOK OF IAN WATSON (\$18.50 from Mark V. Ziesing, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): This is the trade edition, with the signed and limited numbered edition being priced at \$35. Watson is a British SF writer who I am ashamed to say I had not heard of before this book. He's a wonderful wordsmith, and this book is a mixed collection of fiction and non-fiction.

It is the fiction that stands out for me. Worth the price of the book all by itself is "The Pharaoh and the Mademoiselle", a marvellously original tale of resurrection as applied to the Ancient Egyptian of the title. We start off in a self-contained microverse, which proves to be the Pharaoh's sarcophagus, and end up in a sort of comedic Shakespearean blank verse, with a wild ride in between. Find a copy of this and read it, no matter what else of Watson's you can get hold of.

"Dome of Whispers" is a Sufic tale, a neat bit of fiction following on the essay "Some Sufist Insights into the Nature of Inexplicable Events". Clearly this is a topic which has fascinated Watson as it has many of the rest of us, but to better effect.

I could go on piece by piece, but it would take too long. Instead let me just recommend Watson's writing in general. Whether he is speaking of British fandom or writing his esoteric stories, he has a wonderful, flowing style suited equally well to factual essays and fictional forays. Ziesing Books has a winner on its hands here.

Gene Wolfe, FREE LIVE FREE (\$45 from Mark V. Ziesing, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): This is a signed, numbered and illustrated first edition of 750, which explains the price. Though I'm no collector myself, it seems reasonable for a hardcover of this size, well-bound and printed, from a Hugo winner.

FREE LIVE FREE is itself rather schizoid, wavering back and forth between fantasy, SF, and ordinary novel formats. The plot itself is completely impossible to capsulize, involving at least a dozen lines interwoven together, with strands desperately trying to escape the pattern. Old Ben Free is the landlord of a house about to be torn down, and in order to try and save it, he offers to let four strange characters live in it for free. The plot doesn't work, Ben Free disappears, and the characters get embroiled in a series of baffling incidents as they try to locate their erstwhile landlord.

"Slice of life" is the term that springs to mind to describe this book, but it's life in a funhouse mirror. Wolfe describes in loving detail a character writing lonely-hearts letters, only to have one of his respondents turn out to be a secret government agent. He has a witch who is sometimes just a gypsy and sometimes psychically talented, depending on the chapter. He has a perfectly ordinary city undergo a quite extraordinary blackout, with extensive looting within seconds of the power failure.

Judging by the quote from Roosevelt that he chose to lead off with, Wolfe views this book as an experiment, and that is probably the best way to evaluate it. There is more effort expended on the craft of writing and less on holding the reader's attention than one would expect from an award-winner in the SF field. But somehow it all works. The story ends satisfactorily, the loose ends are for the most part tied up, and one comes away hoping that Wolfe might, after all, have been describing the "real" world.

PUBLISHING NOTES: John Stevenson (171 Auburn St., #111, Cambridge, MA 02139) is producing PANDEMONIUM, 60+ pages of exclusives from Charles Manson, William Burroughs, Charles Bukowski, John Waters and Al Goldstein. For \$25 you can be a supporter, get your name in the front, and receive 2 copies of the published work....Loompanics shipping charge is \$3 per order, regardless of the number of books. Their \$2 catalog is free with any order....Tilted Planet Press announces the availability of TILTED PLANET TALES #2, "Far-Reaching Fiction From Austin, Texas", \$7 from PO Box 8646, Austin, TX 78713. ...W. Paul Ganley (PO Box 149, Amherst Branch, Buffalo, NY 14226-0149) has a catalog available of back issues of WIERDBOOK as well as books of gothic and Lovecraftian tales...Ben Abraham Books (97 Donnamora Crescent, Thornhill, Ont L3T 4K6 CANADA) has 30 different catalogs of used books, roughly related to the occult, available.

EIGHT MILLION WAYS TO DIE, by Lawrence Sanders (Jove pb 1983): Alcoholic PI Matt Scudder gets involved with a nasty murderer quite by accident. Gripping. (****)

THE BURGLAR WHO QUOTED SPINOZA, by Lawrence Sanders (Pocket pb 1982): Smarty-pants burglar Bernie Rhodenbarr catches a real crook in quite unbelievable fashion. A poor addition to the series. (** 1/2 *)

THE WAY OF ECBEN, by James Branch Cabell (McBride hc 1929): A minor part of the Comedy of Manuel, this is the last book in the series that Cabell wrote. Notable for his thoughts on writers and writing after the story. (****)

TURN LOOSE THE DRAGON, by George Chesbro (Ballantine pb 1982): A couple of deep-cover hippie CIA agents get pulled out of retirement to assassinate someone remarkably resembling Fidel Castro. Would be interesting if not so obviously contrived. (**)

THE THRONE OF SATURN, by Allen Drury (Avon pb 1972): This was a bestseller but is long out of sight. Find it if you can, it's an absolutely hilarious novel of the human passions and plotting behind the scenes of the first manned mission to Mars. The space shuttle has nothing on this one. (***)

THE SONORA MUTATION, by Albert J. Elias (Avon pb 1978): One of the worst allegedly-suspenseful novels that it has ever been my misfortune to read. (0)

ODDS AGAINST, by Dick Francis (Pocket pb 1975): Sid Halley is an injured jockey-turned-detective who gets in over his head looking for a racecourse saboteur. Gripping suspense and very well done. (****)

WHIP HAND, by Dick Francis (Pocket pb 1981): Sid Halley is back with an artificial hand and a new case involving a subtle bit of tampering with the ponies. Francis' skill in characterization shines throughout this book, which is truly fun to read. (**** 1/2 *)

FLYING FINISH, by Dick Francis (Pocket pb 1975): An excellent suspense novel that uses time dilation to good advantage: half the book is devoted to the final climactic day of discovery. (****)

ROLE OF HONOR, by John Gardner (Berkley pb 1985): This is one of the new "James Bond" books, featuring a lackluster protagonist who happens to have the same name and job as Ian Fleming's master spy. Trash. (0)

ROBERT FLUDD, by Joscelyn Godwin (Shambhala tpb 1979): A brief discussion of Fludd's Hermetic philosophy followed by over 100 beautiful engravings from his works. A glimpse back to a time when it was still possible to view all of man's knowledge as part of a unified and sensible whole. (** 1/2 *)

FIREFLY, by Norma Harris (Pinnacle pb 1984): Trashy novel about an orphaned girl who finds fame and fashion and good sex by opening her own chain of nightclubs. (0)

COMPUTER SYSTEM PERFORMANCE, by Herbert Hellerman and Thomas Conroy (McGraw-Hill hc 1975): How outdated this is after only a decade. Still contains some interesting explanations of the design principles behind the first really big Operating Systems. (** 1/2 *)

EXOCET, by Jack Higgins (Signet pb 1983): Set during the Falklands War, this is a mix of intrigue and love story, punctuated by some truly nasty spies. Higgins is in good form as usual. (****)

THE RED FOX, by Anthony Hyde (Knopf hc 1985): I had the fortune of reading an advance copy of this, the best first novel I have seen in years. International intrigue by someone who can write as well as he plots, and a blockbuster ending. Buy it. (*****)

THE SPY NEXT DOOR, by Lawrence Kessner (Charter pb 1985): Allegedly based on a true story, this novel traces the rise and fall of a father and son team of Soviet deep cover spies in the US. Reasonably interesting through most of the book, but dies out with a whimper at the end. (** 1/2 *)

THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS, by Thomas S. Kuhn (University of Chicago tpb 1970): The original article by the guy who came up with the concept of the scientific paradigm, with a relatively new afterword.

Interesting and surprisingly readable study in the history of science. (*****)

STICK, by Elmore Leonard (Avon pb 1984): After ten years in the slammer for armed robbery, Stick comes down to sunny Florida to get involved with stockbrokers and drug dealers and make his fortune, or at least a new life. Extremely powerful writing and wonderful dissection of an extraordinary mind. (**** 1/2 *)

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, by Brian Lysaght (Avon pb 1984): Young lawyer gets mixed up in and becomes the fall guy for a gigantic business fraud. Would be better if the characterization was at all believable. Still full of action. (***)

PROTEGE, by Malcolm MacPherson (Golden Apple pb 1984): A bunch of aging Nazis spring their final plot to take over the world. Moderately interesting suspense with a let-down ending. (** 1/2 *)

MALE PRACTICE, by Robert S. Mendelsohn, MD (Contemporary hc 1981): A look at modern obstetrical and gynecological practice with an emphasis on the creation of disease by doctors and the chauvinism involved in their treatment of women. An eye-opening though probably overstated book. (****)

ELRIC AT THE END OF TIME, by Michael Moorcock (Daw pb 1985): Actually a collection of shorter pieces dating back to 1957, only a few of which have to do with Elric. Worth reading for the title story and the discussions of the Jerry Cornelius tetralogy, one of the great modern artworks. (****)

LORD KALVAN OF OTHERWHEN, by H. Beam Piper (Ace pb 1984): The story of a state trooper who gets whisked away to an alternate timeline and makes his fortune. An interesting view of military might being advanced centuries overnight. (***)

PARATIME, by H. Beam Piper (Ace pb 1981): More stories set in the multiverse of Lord Kalvan, giving details of Piper's view of history. The best is probably the early "He Walked Around the Horses", giving a chilling feel for what alternate worlds might be like. (*****)

CENTRIFUGE, by J.C. Pollock (Dell pb 1985): An adventure story with a downbeat ending. One man takes on the CIA, the KGB, and assorted other spooks -- and loses. Moderately interesting. (**)

POSSESSION, by Ann Rule (Signet pb 1984): A nut kills a guy in the woods, rapes and dominates his wife. Trash. (0)

THE DISCOVERY, by Steve Shagan (Bantam pb 1985): The author who demonstrated a complete misunderstanding of chemistry in THE FORMULA now does the same for archaeology. (0)

SKYLARK OF VALERON, by E.E. "Doc" Smith (Pyramid pb 1967): Space opera from the grand old days of science fiction. By the end of this book the good guys are practically leaping universes in a single bound and bending time with their bare hands. Nostalgically fun. (** 1/2 *)

CHILDREN OF THE LENS, by E.E. "Doc" Smith (Pyramid pb 1968): The culmination of the famous Lensman series, encompassing the final triumph of good over evil in the galaxy. Read this one, but only after reading the rest of the series. Even ties most of the loose ends together. (***)

THE COLD WAR SWAP, by Ross Thomas (Perennial Library pb 1984): The first of Thomas' MacCorkle & Padillo spy novels, introducing the duo of bartenders, one of whom is a professional spy -- the other one gets drawn into it almost by mistake. A somewhat rocky early novel. (***)

IF YOU CAN'T BE GOOD, by Ross Thomas (Perennial pb 1984): A historian goes to work for a Jack Anderson clone and gets involved in a whole lot of murders and other sleazy stuff. You'll never guess the ending because it is so completely untelegraphed and outrageous. (****)

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